Black Butler
YANA TOBOSO
XXIV

Black Butler
YANA TOBOSO

Contents

Chapter 115

In the morning 3

The Butler, Heeding

Chapter 116

At noon 27

The Butler, Attiring

Chapter 117

In the afternoon .. 49

The Butler, Sparring

Chapter 118

At night 77

The Butler, Remodelling

Chapter 119

At midnight..... 107

The Butler, Instructing

Bonus Chapter

On a special day ... 135

The Butler, Lyrical

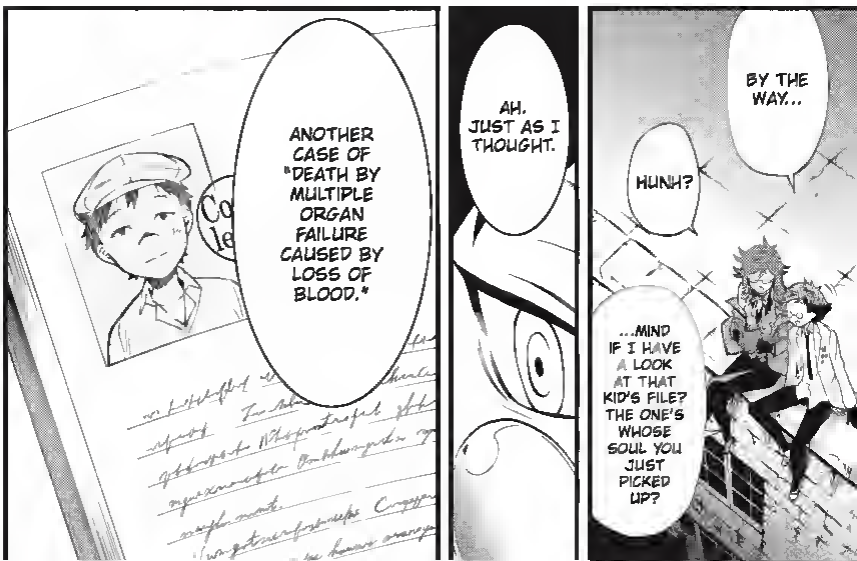
Chapter 115

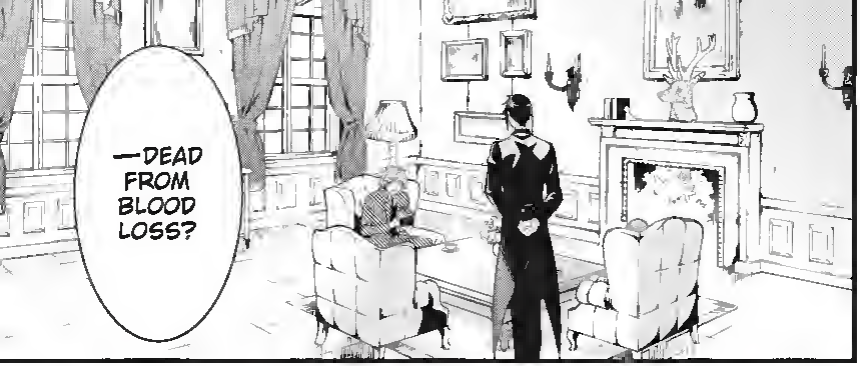
In the morning : The Butler, Heeding

WELL?
WHAT BUSINESS DOES A REAPER FROM FORENSICS, THE GEEKIEST DIVISION OF THE REAPER DESPATCH, HAVE ON THE SCENE HERE IN THE HUMAN WORLD...
...HMM, OTHELLO?
I'M NOT TELLING.
HUNH!?
ケロッ
KERO (CASUAL)
DOUBT YOU'D UNDERSTAND EVEN IF I TOLD YOU~!
GOSH!
HOW RUDE!
AH HA HA!

BESIDES, YOU DON'T ACTUALLY HAVE ANY INTEREST IN FORENSIC RESEARCH AND SUCH, DO YOU, DEAR GRELLE?
YOU'RE RIGHT. BUT STILL!
PAKA (POP)
PAKU (CHOMP)
YOU JUST TAKE CARE OF A GRIM REAPER'S MOST IMPORTANT DUTY— RETRIEVING SOULS WITHOUT FAIL.
I'LL DO MY OWN THING.
SO YOU'LL BE STAYING HERE FOR A WHILE?
MAYBE?
HMMM.
I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU'RE UP TO.
JUST DON'T GET IN THE WAY OF MY WORK.

I HAVE NO CONFIDENCE IN MY PHYSICAL ABILITIES...
...AND I HAVEN'T CUSTOMISED MY DEATH SCYTHE EITHER...
...SO PROTECT ME WHEN I NEED PROTECTING, WON'T YOU?
CHA CHANG
IT'S JUST THE SAME AS THE DAY I GOT IT.
OHHH, THAT TAKES ME BACK TO MY TRAINING DAYS, THAT DOES ~!
I NEVER IMAGINED THERE'D BE SOMEONE STILL USING IT.
THAT UNFASHIONABLE DEATH SCYTHE!


ANOTHER CASE OF "DEATH BY MULTIPLE ORGAN FAILURE CAUSED BY LOSS OF BLOOD."
AH. JUST AS I THOUGHT.
BY THE WAY...
HUNH?
...MIND IF I HAVE A LOOK AT THAT KID'S FILE? THE ONE'S WHOSE SOUL YOU JUST PICKED UP?


—DEAD FROM BLOOD LOSS?

YES.
TO BE PRECISE, THE DEATHS APPEAR TO BE THE RESULT OF MULTIPLE ORGAN FAILURE DUE TO LOSS OF BLOOD...
I'M TOLD THE QUANTITY OF BLOOD REMAINING IN EACH CORPSE WAS ABNORMALLY SMALL.

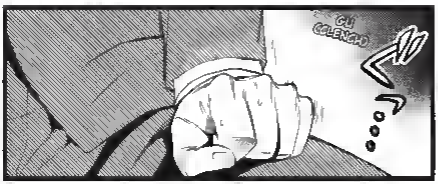
NOW IT ALL COMES TOGETHER.
...AND BLOOD LOSS AS A CAUSE OF DEATH ...
... CORPSES WITH NO COMMON-ALITIES ...
EVENTS WHERE THE BLOOD OF THE ATTENDEES IS DRAWN IN SECRET ...

WHAT DID YOU SAY!?
SPHERE MUSIC HALL IS COVERTLY BLEEDING ITS GUESTS TO THEIR DEATHS.
THERE'S HARDLY ANY ROOM FOR DOUBT.
RIGHT.
NO, WAIT.
THEN I'LL HAVE THEM LOCKED UP AT ONCE—
...THERE MAY ALSO BE VICTIMS WHO HAVE SUCCUMBED TO SOMETHING OTHER THAN LOSS OF BLOOD.
ACCORDING TO HERR WOLFRAM, THE FAILURE RATE OF SUCH A PROCEDURE IS QUITE HIGH, SO...
THAT'S NOT ALL. THEY MIGHT ALSO BE CONDUCTING EXPERIMENTS IN BLOOD TRANSFUSION USING WHAT THEY'VE COLLECTED.

A MUSIC HALL WHERE ENTRY, FOOD, AND DRINK ARE PROVIDED AT NO COST...
...
BRACELETS OF PURE SILVER GIVEN AWAY FOR FREE...
...AND FACILITIES WHERE TRANSFUSION EXPERIMENTS ARE LIKELY BEING CARRIED OUT...
NONE WOULD BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE SUPPORT OF PEOPLE WITH VAST WEALTH.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
SE-BAS-TIAN.
SU (SWF)

THE MILITARY, THE HOUSE OF LORDS ...
...AND SCOT-LAND YARD...
YOU'LL FIND THE NAMES OF SOME OF THEIR TOP MEMBERS IN THIS LIST OF SPHERE MUSIC HALL'S REGULARS.
READING THIS COULD CAUSE SOMEONE IN YOUR POSITION TO LOSE HEART IN HIS WORK.
WILL YOU STILL LOOK?


GU (GUENGUD)

PLEASE LET ME SEE IT.

HMM, UNDER-LINE?
IT'S ABBER-LINE!!
YOU SAID THAT ON PURPOSE, DIDN'T YOU?

PERA (FLIP)

SU (SWIP)
HERE YOU ARE.

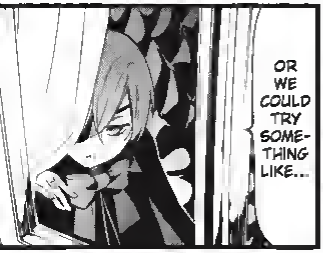
...!
ALL THESE PEOPLE !?

BOTH THE HOUSE OF LORDS AND SCOTLAND YARD NOW SEEM LIKE THE ABODES OF DEMONS, DON'T THEY?
A GOOD NUMBER OF THEM MUST BE PATRONS OF THE HALL.
SO...
...IF YOU ACT OPENLY, THEY'LL NOT ONLY HUSH UP YOUR INVESTIGATION, BUT WE MAY VERY WELL FAIL TO CATCH THE TRUE MASTERMIND.
COULDN'T WE REQUEST THE AID OF HER MAJESTY?
"THE QUEEN REIGNS BUT DOES NOT RULE."
THE ENGLISH SOVEREIGN DOESN'T INTERVENE IN DOMESTIC AFFAIRS, BY THE WORD OF LAW.
THEN WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE ME DO!?

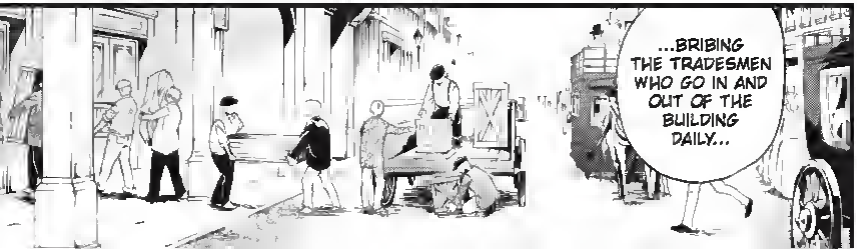
YOU WAIT AND SEE.
KATA COUCKO
I'LL SINK MY TEETH INTO THEIR TAILS BEFORE THEY CAN ESCAPE.
THAT'S WHAT I, THE QUEEN'S WATCH-DOG, AM HERE FOR.

RIGHT.

THE QUICKEST METHOD WOULD BE TO INFILTRATE THE INNER CIRCLE LIKE WE DID WITH THE CIRCUS.

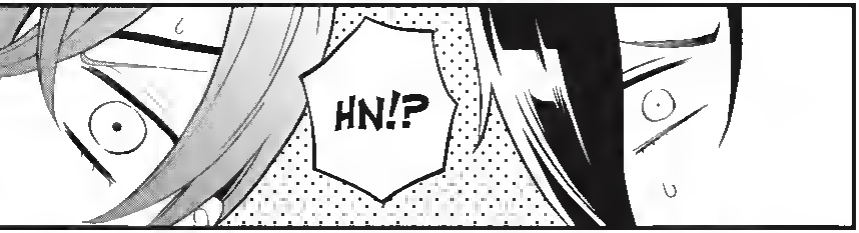

OR WE COULD TRY SOME-THING LIKE...

THERE IS THAT.
BUT AS LONG AS BLAVAT IS PRESENT, WE RISK BEING FOUND OUT.


...BRIBING THE TRADESMEN WHO GO IN AND OUT OF THE BUILDING DAILY...

AND WE CAN'T SAY WITH ABSOLUTE CERTAINTY THAT THEY'LL BITE.
BUT IF OUR NEGOTIATIONS FAIL, BLAVAT WILL BE THE FIRST TO HEAR ABOUT IT.
.....
SO WHERE DOES THAT LEAVE US?
NOW, JUST A MIN-UTE!!
SORRY, MISS!
WOULD YOU MIND NOT BEING SO ROUGH WITH THAT!?
WA GUCHA
TSURU (SLIP)
OH!
DOSUN (THUD)

THIS IS WHY I CAN'T STAND MEN!
UNLIKE YOU TWO, HAUTE COUTURE IS DELICATE!
DON (BAM)


HN!?

KYU (MOVE)
KYU

ONE, TWO, THREE!
ONE, TWO, THREE!
KYU
GOOD!
LET'S SEE MORE OF YOUR RADIANCE NOW!

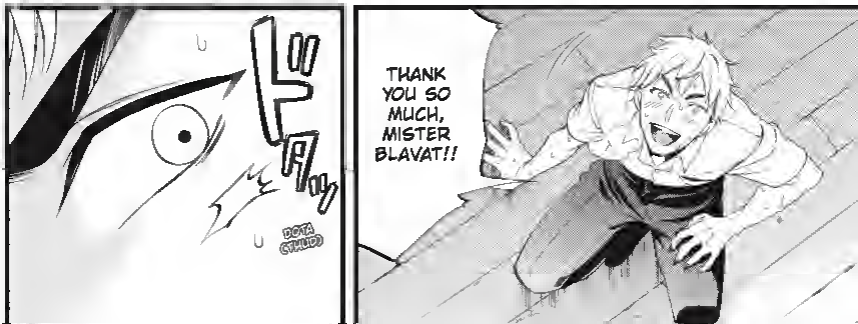
YES!

CLANG
CLANG

ALL RIGHT!
WE'LL CALL IT A DAY.
TAN (CLAP)

GOOD WORK AGAIN TODAY.
GULP
HAAH!
HAAH!
HAAH!
HERE'S YOUR REWARD FOR GIVING IT ALL YOU'VE GOT.

A NEW SONG.
LISTENING TO THIS WILL PUT EVEN BIGGER SMILES ON EVERYONE'S FACES.


トン
PIOTA (CHILD)
THANK YOU SO MUCH, MISTER BLAVAT!!

HAAH!
I'M PATHETIC FOR ALLOWING A SIMPLE LESSON LIKE THIS TO BRING ME TO MY KNEES...
I-I'M FINE.
HAAH!
BLUEWER!!
SU (SQUINT)
I KNOW THESE DAILY LESSONS ARE HARD ON YOU.
BUT YOU FOUR ARE THE VERY CELESTIAL BODIES THAT DELIVER THE RADIANCE TO OUR BRETHREN...
YOU'RE STARS!
YES, OF COURSE!!

THAT'S RIGHT.
WE'RE NOT GOING TO MAKE A MESS OF IT THIS TIME!

THIS IS NOW THE ONLY PLACE WHERE WE CAN SHINE.

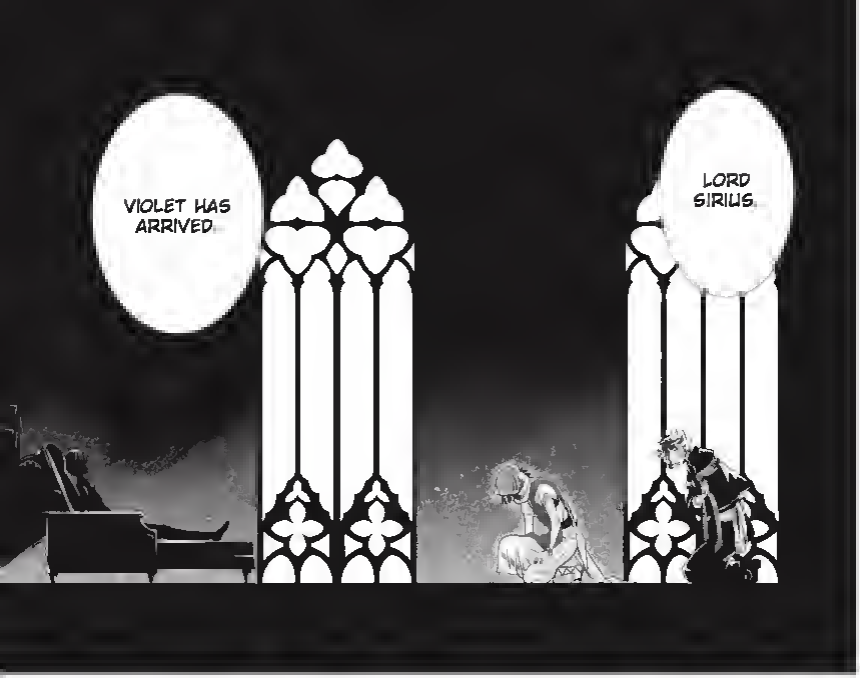
む、
MUNI (PINCH)
NOW, NOWWW!

RIGHT!
NI-HA-HA! THAT'S BETTER! ♫

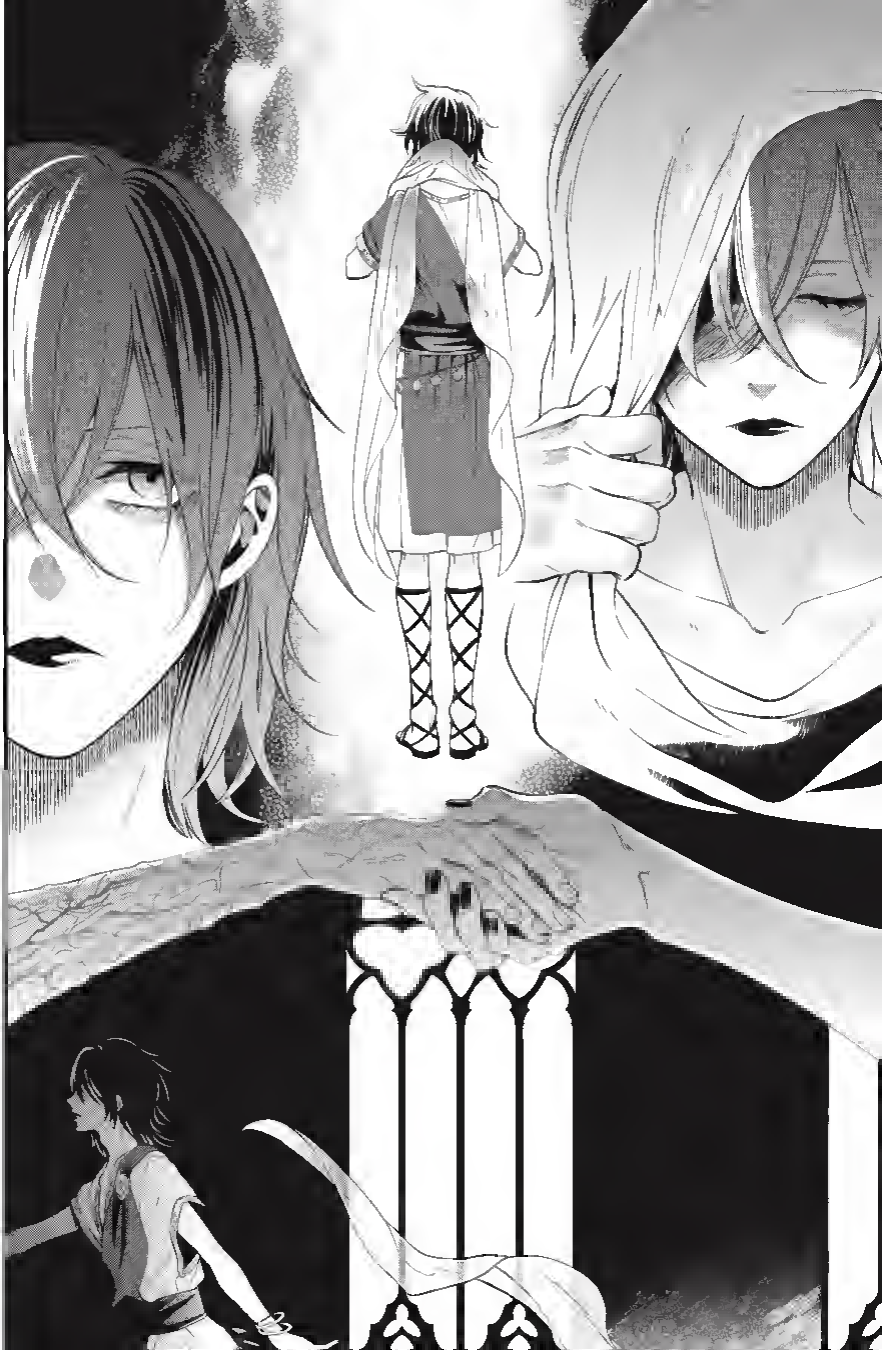
GLOOMY FACES LIKE THAT WILL CLOUD YOUR SPARKLE!

BIKU (SOLT)
OH YES.
VIOLET.
IT PAINS ME TO ASK THIS OF A MEMBER OF THE CHOIR, BUT...
...WON'T YOU SHARE A LITTLE OF YOUR RADIANCE AGAIN?
THE LIGHT OF LORD SIRIUS IS GROWING DIM.
.....

.....
ALL RIGHT.
BATAN (SLAM)


VIOLET HAS ARRIVED.
LORD SIRIUS.

COME HERE.
SUU (SWF)



Black Butler

Chapter 116

At noon : The Butler, Attiring

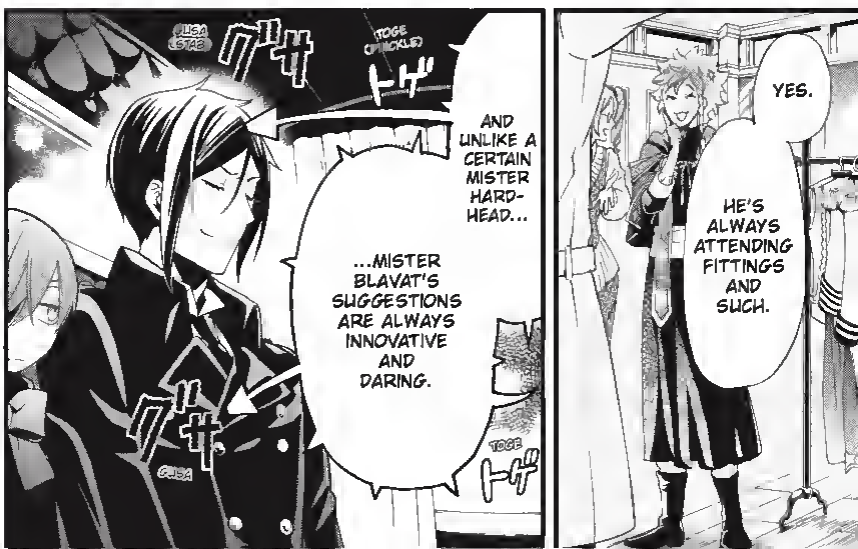
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
I DO HOPE YOU'LL FAVOUR HOPKINS WITH YOUR CUSTOM IN THE FUTURE! ♡

THAT VALISE SEEMS HEAVY. SHALL I SEE YOU HOME, MY LADY ?

ガラガラ…
GARA GARA (RATTLE)
GARA

I'M QUITE ALL RIGHT, THANK YOU.
COME, NOW. DON'T BE LIKE THAT.
HOP IN, NINA.
OH MY!
EARL PHANTOM-HIVE!!
SHHH!
YES, THAT'S RIGHT!
ALL OF THE COSTUMES AT THE RENOWNED SPHERE MUSIC HALL...
...ARE MADE BY HOPKINS' TAILOR SHOP, RUN BY YOURS TRULY!
GARA
GARA

TO BE HONEST, I'D RATHER TURN DOWN COSTUME ORDERS FOR MALES OVER THE AGE OF FIFTEEN, BUT...
...THE PEOPLE AT THE HALL WERE SO ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT HAVING ME AS THEIR COSTUMER THAT I WAS INCREDIBLY MOVED AND HAD TO SAY YES.
YOU KNOW, MISTER BLAVAT PRODUCES BOTH THE S*'S SONGS AND THEIR CLOTHING.
THEIR CLOTH-ING TOO?


YES.
HE'S ALWAYS ATTENDING FITTINGS AND SUCH.
(TOGE CHUCKLE)
AND UNLIKE A CERTAIN MISTER HARD-HEAD...
...MISTER BLAVAT'S SUGGESTIONS ARE ALWAYS INNOVATIVE AND DARING.
(USA STAB)
(USA)
(TOGE)

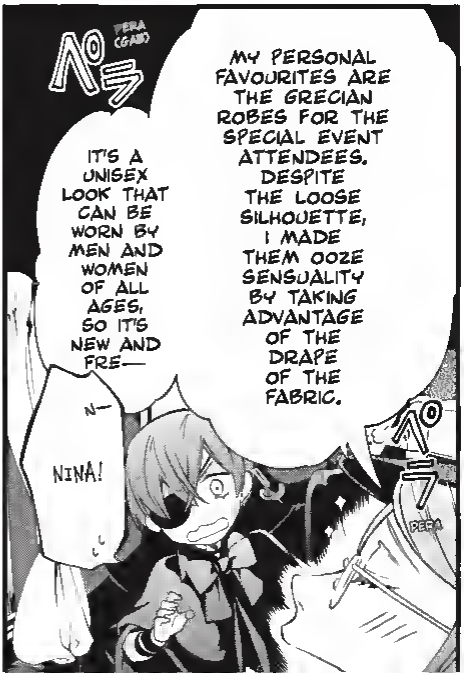
...I'M GUESSING THERE'S MORE TO HIM THAN THAT.
...SINCE YOU'RE ASKING ME ALL OF THESE QUESTIONS, EARL...
BUT...
I'M GLAD YOU'RE QUICK TO CATCH ON.
IT'S JUST WHAT I WOULD EXPECT FROM SOMEONE WHOSE FAMILY LINE HAS OUTFITTED MANY GENERATIONS OF THE QUEEN'S WATCHDOG.
YOUR HIGH PRAISE DOES ME GREAT HONOUR.

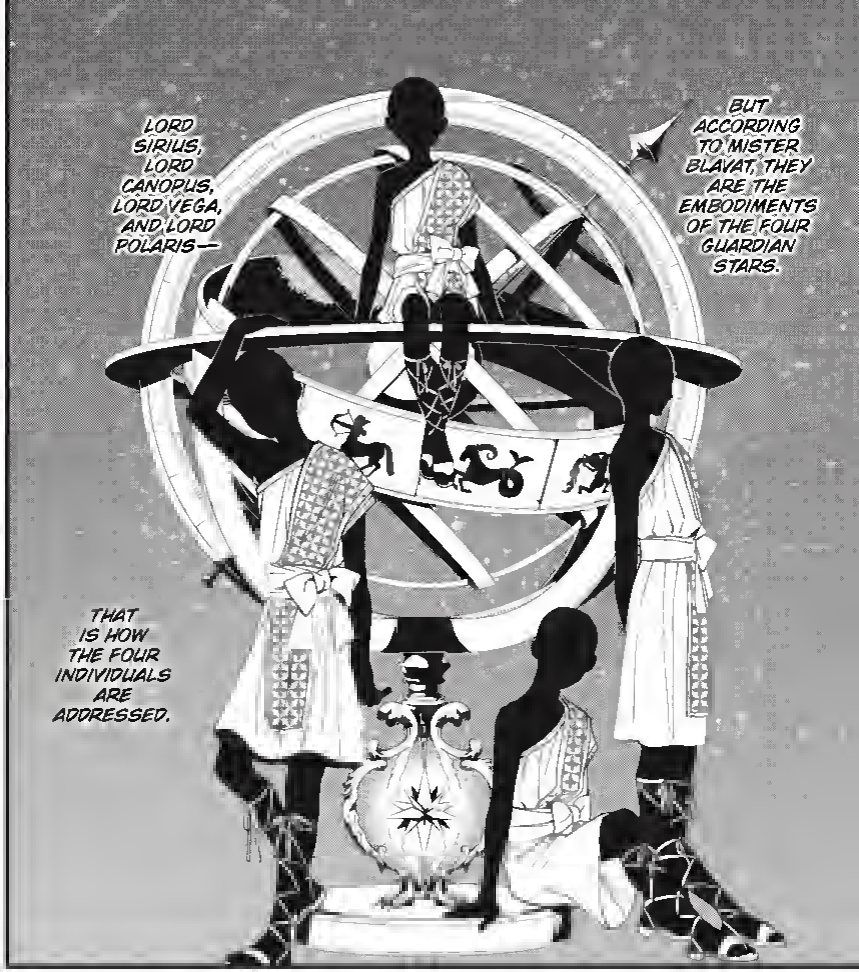
BUT WHEN IT COMES TO THEM, MISTER BLAVAT REFUSES TO ALLOW ME TO DO THE ACTUAL MEASURING.
?
HOW-EVER...
...I'M ONLY PRIVY TO THE MEASURE-MENTS OF THE 54 AND MISTER BLAVAT.
OH, AND THOSE WITH THE NAMES OF STARS.
I DID.
THAT'S WHY I'D LIKE TO GET MY HANDS ON THE OTHERS TOO.
DID YOU NOT TAKE THE 54'S MEASURE-MENTS YOURSELF?
W—
WAIT! HANG ON!
ARE THE 54 NOT "THOSE WITH THE NAMES OF STARS"!?

I WAS COMMISSIONED TO DESIGN COSTUMES FOR EVERYONE, FROM THE S4 TO ALL THE REST.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
THOSE WITH THE NAMES OF STARS ARE OF HIGHER STATUS THAN EVEN THE S4.

PLEASE TELL ME MORE ABOUT THE ONES WITH THE NAMES OF STARS!

I CAN'T SAY I KNOW MUCH ABOUT THEM MYSELF.
HM?
OHH...


PERA (GAO)
MY PERSONAL FAVOURITES ARE THE GRECIAN ROBES FOR THE SPECIAL EVENT ATTENDEES. DESPITE THE LOOSE SILHOUETTE, I MADE THEM OOZE SENSUALITY BY TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE DRAPE OF THE FABRIC.
IT'S A UNISEX LOOK THAT CAN BE WORN BY MEN AND WOMEN OF ALL AGES, SO IT'S NEW AND FRE—
N—
NINA!
PERA


LORD SIRIUS, LORD CANOPUS, LORD VEGA, AND LORD POLARIS—
BUT ACCORDING TO MISTER BLAVAT, THEY ARE THE EMBODIMENTS OF THE FOUR GUARDIAN STARS.
THAT IS HOW THE FOUR INDIVIDUALS ARE ADDRESSED.

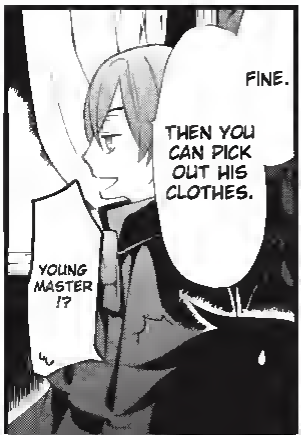
WHEN IT'S TIME FOR FITTINGS, MISTER BLAVAT TAKES THE COSTUMES AND GOES THROUGH A DOOR WITH A CONSTELLATION...
...BUT HE NEVER LETS ME GO IN.

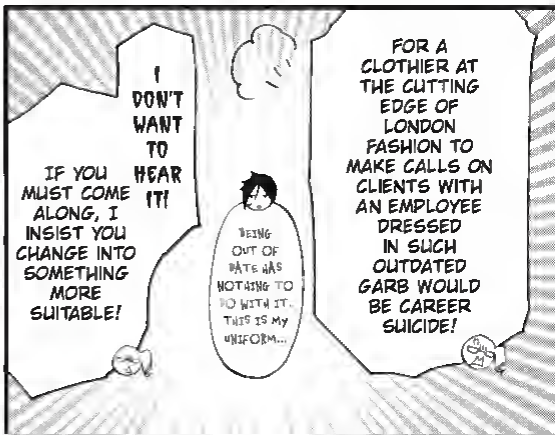
AND WHERE ARE THOSE FOUR?
THAT'S WHAT I'D LIKE TO KNOW!

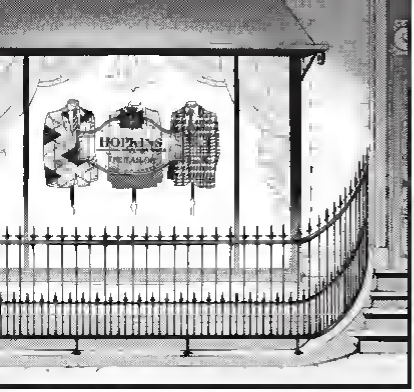
THAT'S WHERE MY BLOOD WAS DRAWN...
POSO (MUMBLE)
SO...
...EACH OF THOSE FOUR RESIDE IN THEIR RESPECTIVE ROOMS...?
OH? EARL, DIDN'T YOU NOTICE?
THE FOUR ENTRANCES ALL LEAD INTO ONE ROOM.
LIKE SO...
GAKU (DROOP)
I WONDER WHAT ALL THAT POMP WAS FOR, THEN...
THAT MUST BE WHY THE PRIVATE EVENTS ARE HELD ON DIFFERENT DAYS OF THE WEEK.
POMP IS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF FAITH.
PLEASE ALLOW SEBASTIAN TO GO WITH YOU.
I'LL COMPENSATE YOU GENEROUSLY.
NINA.
WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO THE MUSIC HALL NEXT?
I TACKED COSTUMES FOR A NEW SONG TODAY...
...SO I'LL BE DELIVERING THE FINISHED PIECES A WEEK FROM NOW.
CARD RATTLE
CARD
CER-TAINLY —!

DON CHAMO
NOT!
NEVER IN A MILLION YEARS!

EH!?


FINE.
THEN YOU CAN PICK OUT HIS CLOTHES.
YOUNG MASTER!?


I DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT!
IF YOU MUST COME ALONG, I INSIST YOU CHANGE INTO SOMETHING MORE SUITABLE!
BEING OUT OF DATE HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH IT. THIS IS MY UNIFORM...
FOR A CLOTHIER AT THE CUTTING EDGE OF LONDON FASHION TO MAKE CALLS ON CLIENTS WITH AN EMPLOYEE DRESSED IN SUCH OUTDATED GARB WOULD BE CAREER SUICIDE!


HOPKINS
FASHIONS

I'LL TURN HIM INTO A DASHING GENT! JUST YOU WATCH!
I'D STILL REALLY RATHER NOT, BUT HOW CAN I SAY NO TO YOU, EARL!?

...BUT THEY DON'T LOOK GOOD ON YOU AT ALL!
PALE COLOURS ARE IN VOGUE THIS YEAR...
A DUCK SUIT WITH A BOATER IS THE LATEST STYLE!
AU-GUSTA! LET'S HAVE THE STRIPED ONE!
PERHAPS A CLOSE-FITTING, DOUBLE-BREASTED SUIT WOULD BE BETTER.

OR A UNIQUE OUTFIT WITH A SACK COAT MIGHT BE JUST THE THING!
WE COULD GO MODERN, WITH A STRIPED JACKET AND A PAIR OF SADDLE SHOES.
NO, MAYBE A CUMMERBUND AND BRACES WOULD BETTER SUIT SOMEONE OF YOUR HEIGHT.
THIS ONE WON'T DO EITHER!
THAT ONE'S OUT!
YES, ALL RIGHT.
TRY THIS ON NEXT!
WHEN THE MODEL LEAVES SO MUCH TO BE DESIRED, IT'S NO WONDER NOTHING LOOKS QUITE RIGHT!

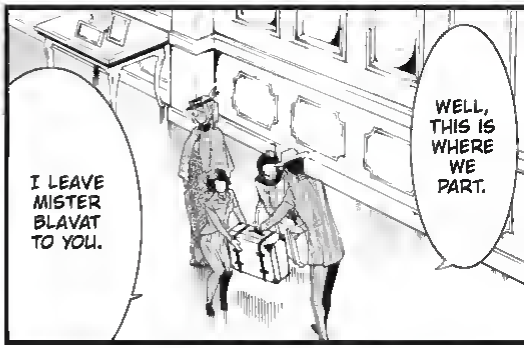
THERE REALLY IS NO NEED FOR ALL THIS.
I CAN SLIP IN ON MY OWN.
BETTER SAFE THAN SORRY.
IF YOU'RE WITH NINA, YOU'LL SURELY ATTRACT BLAVAT'S ATTENTION.
.SAY WHAT YOU WILL, BUT...
...YOU ARE ENJOYING THIS, ARE YOU NOT?
HMPH.
SO HOW DOES IT FEEL, BEING TURNED INTO A HELPLESS DRESS-UP DOLL?
GOOD GRIEF...

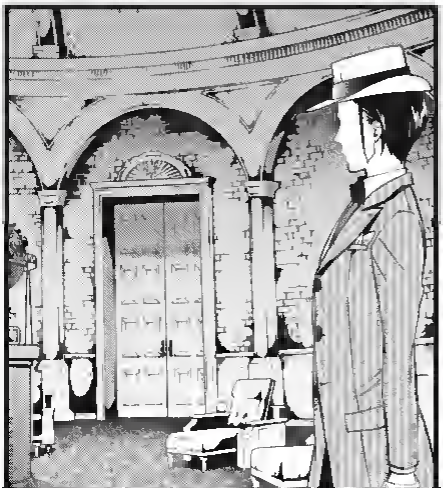
Spiere Museum
I'M LETTING YOU COME ALONG AS A FAVOUR TO THE EARL.
MAKE SURE YOU DON'T GET IN MY WAY.
.....
YES, MISS.
KAIGU GAKARO
RIGHT!
HERE WE GO!

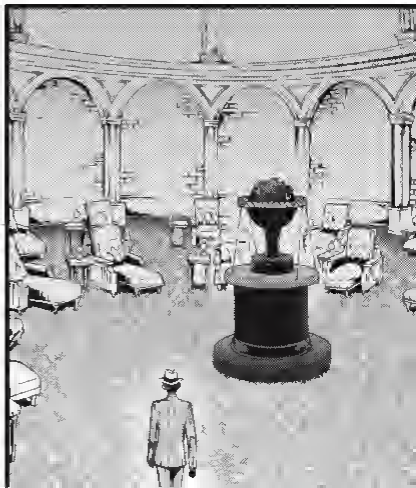
HOPKINS' TAILOR SHOP, AT YOUR SERVICE!
WE'VE COME TO DELIVER THE COSTUMES!

THAT'S THE PLACE.
YES.
BUT CARRYING THINGS IS ALL HE'S GOOD FOR RIGHT NOW.
OH? IS HE NEW?

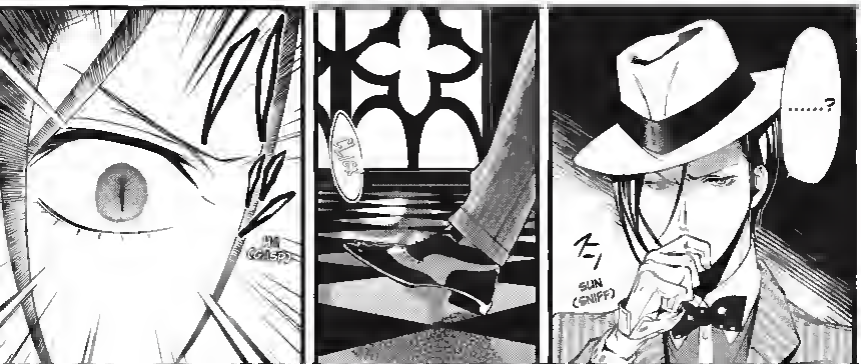
KI
(CREAK)
キッ…


I LEAVE MISTER BLAVAT TO YOU.
WELL, THIS IS WHERE WE PART.





GU (GROAN)

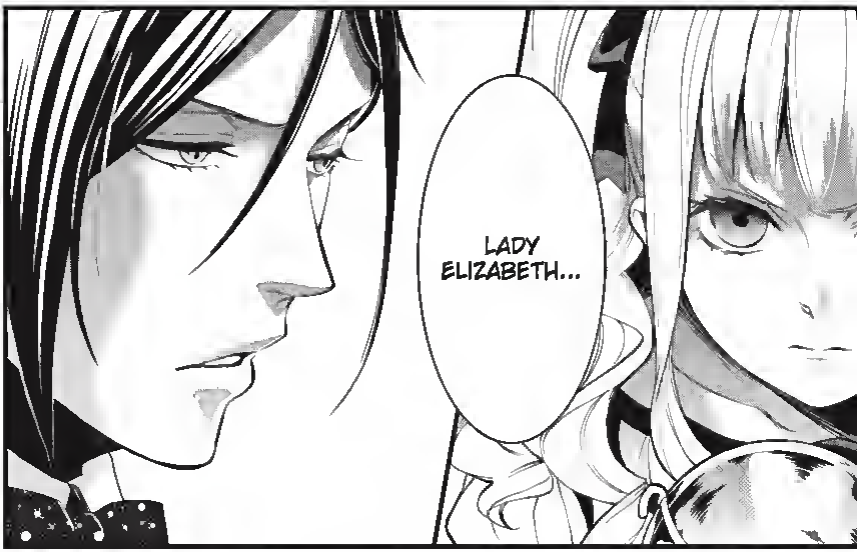

HA (GASP)
CLICK
SUN (SNIFF)
.....?

SUTO CYMO?
TON CLEAD?
LADY ELIZABETH.

Black Butler

Chapter 117

In the afternoon : The Butler, Sparring


LADY ELIZABETH...

...LET YOU PASS!
SU (SHF)
I SHALL NOT...

HAH!
LADY ELIZABETH.
BOTH YOUR FAMILY AND THE YOUNG MASTER HAVE BEEN WORRIED ABOUT YOU.
PLEASE RETURN HOME.
I SHALL DO NO SUCH THING!!
TO CAST

FUWA (WHOOSH)
I COULD MAKE QUICK WORK OF HER WERE SHE NOT THE YOUNG MASTER'S FIANCÉE...

SUTO (THUD)
ストッ

JIRI (INCH)
HOW...
YOU DARE ASK?
YOU ALWAYS WANT TO SEE THE YOUNG MASTER SMILING. WHAT BRINGS YOU TO DO THIS?

...SHOULD I KNOW !!?
GYARU (SPIN)

HYUN (WHIP)
KA (CRACK)
HU (WHIP)
BI (AIR)
TAN (TAP)

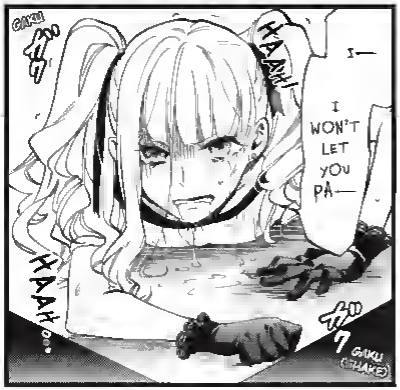
WHY, EVEN I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.
GU (CLENCH)
BUT ...
...I...
...AND I ALONE ...
...SIMPLY CAN'T GO BACK TO HIS SIDE!!

GASHAAN (CRASH)
(SWIPE)
(CRASH)
GYUO (SPIN)

パラ
PARA (TINKLE)
LADY ELIZABETH.
I GRANT THAT YOUR STRENGTH IS ADMIRABLE.
FOR A HUMAN...
...THAT IS.

DO
GHAAAH!

GARAN (CLANG)
GOLO (ROLL)
GOLO (ROLL)
ゴロゴロゴロッ

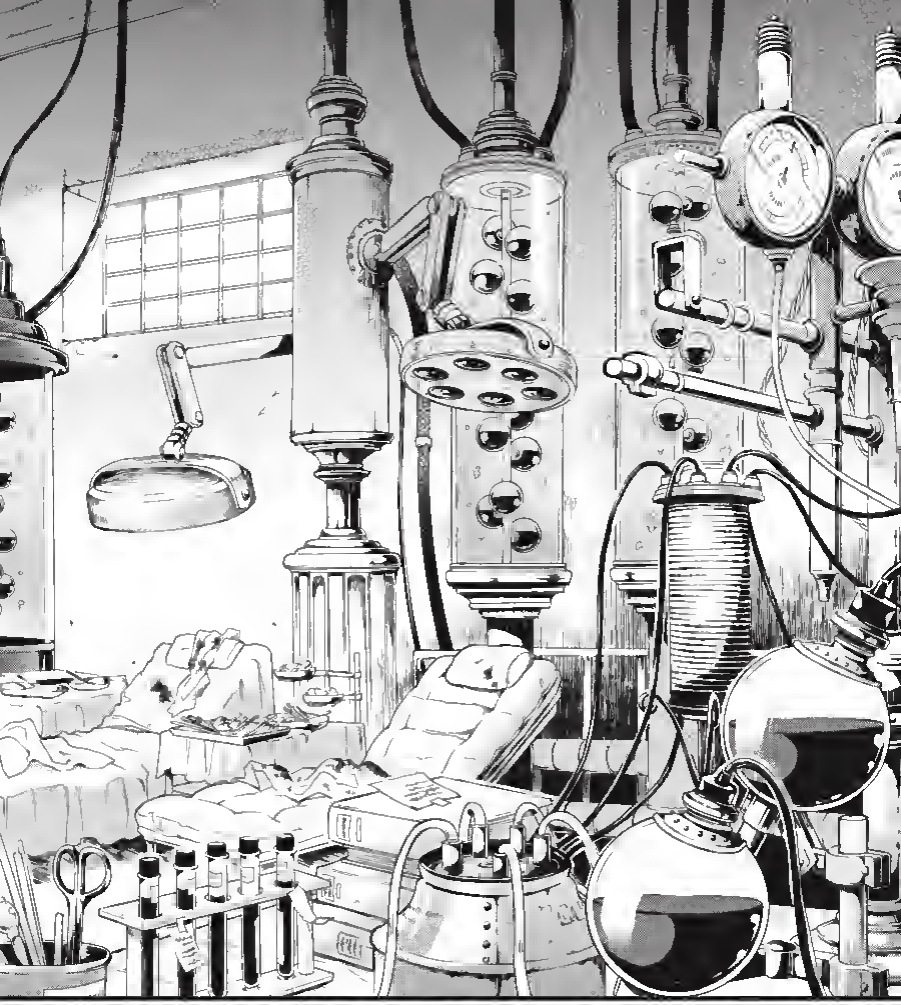

GAKU (SHAKE)
HAAH...
HAAH...
I—
I WON'T LET YOU PA—
GAKU (SHAKE)

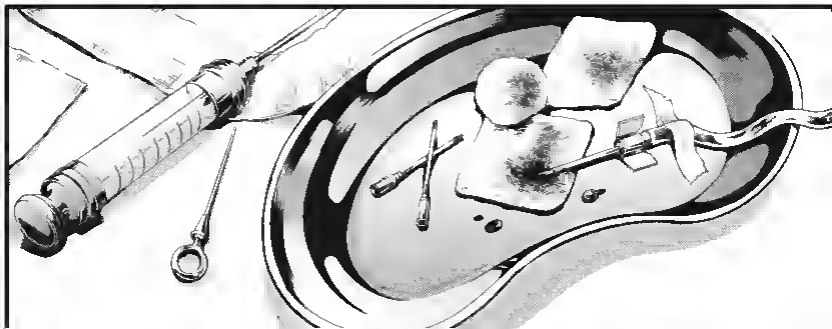
GWEH
BEH!

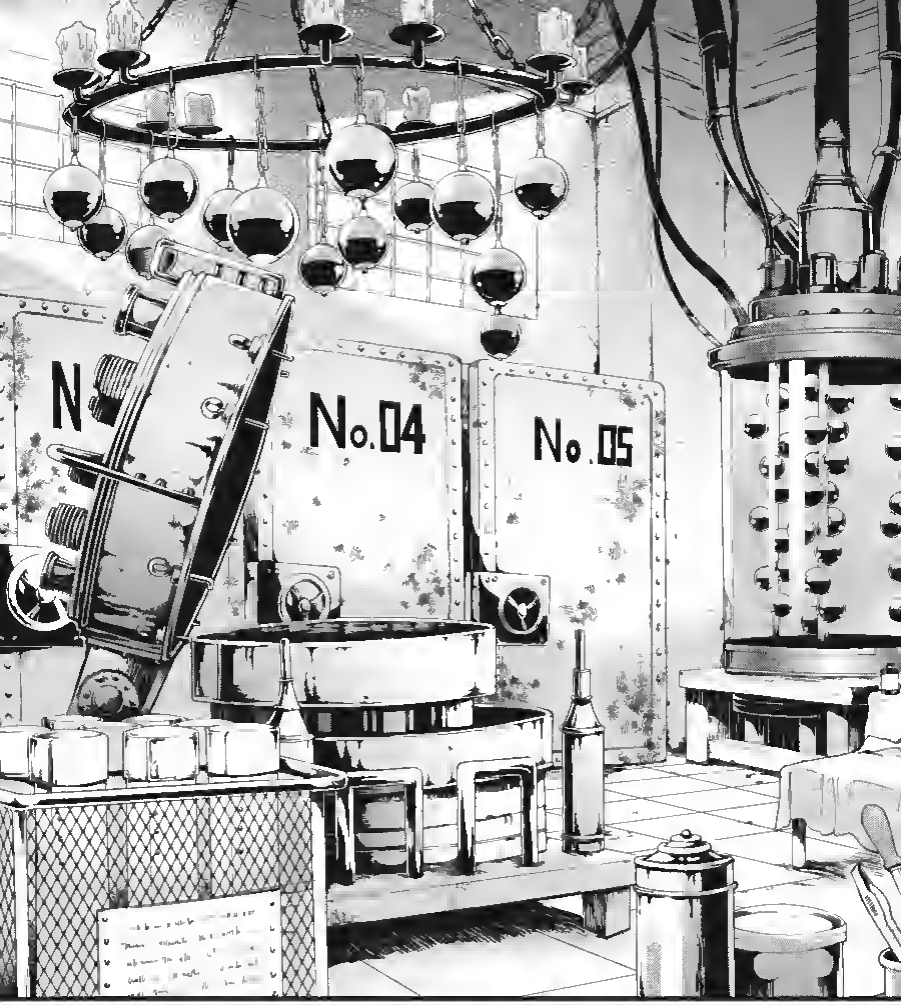
PHEEW...
OH DEAR.

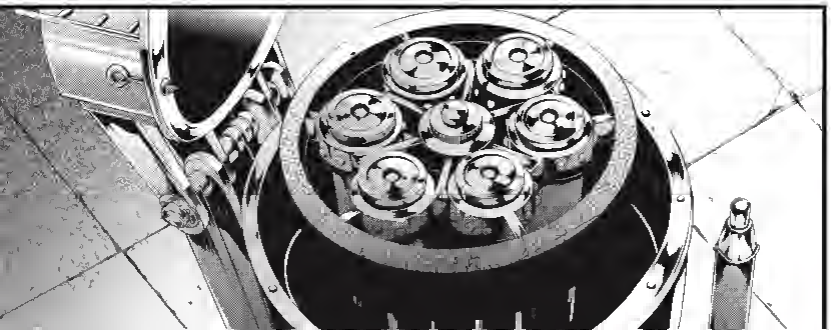
GAKU (COLLAPSE)

HUMAN BEINGS ARE FAR FRAILER THAN I EVER EXPECTED. I HAVE SUCH A HARD TIME HOLDING BACK.
OHH, WHAT A RELIEF.
NO BROKEN BONES.
GOTSUN (BONK)
NOW, THEN ...
GI (CREAK)
SUN (SNIFF)






No.04
No.05



No.04
No.05
No.02
No.03
NOW I SEE.
THIS MUST BE HOW THEY HAVE BEEN COLLECTING THE BLOOD OF THEIR GUESTS.
ガシュ…
GASHU (SHOOK)

Polaris
Vega
Canopus
Sirius

I HEARD ABOUT THE RARITY OF SIRIUS, BUT I NEVER IMAGINED THE DIFFERENCE IN QUANTITY WOULD BE SO VAST...
THE BLOOD IS CATEGORISED BY THE NAMES OF THE STARS.

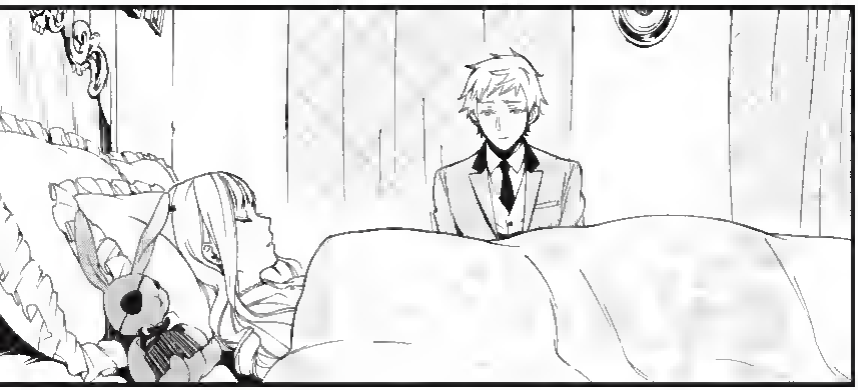
ガチャ…
GACHA
(KACHAK)
ガシャ
KACHA
(RATTLE)
NOW TO FIND THE SPECIAL FOUR NAMED AFTER THE STARS...
LOCKED, HM?
RATTLE

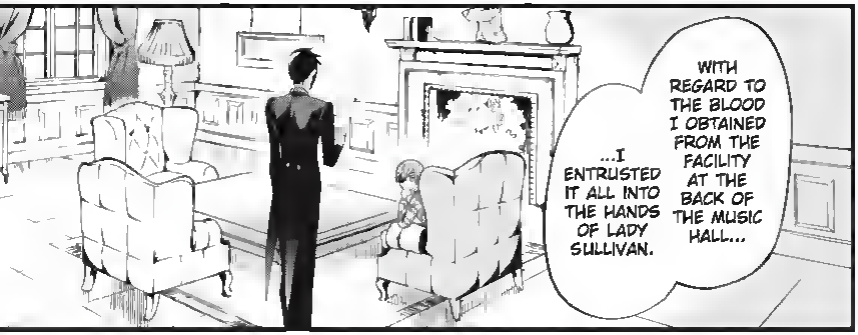
ガチャ…
GACHA (KACHAK)
GACHA
ガチャ…
GACHA
ガチャ…

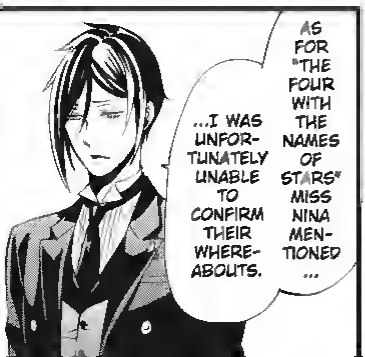
WELL…
…NOW WHAT?
…I SUPPOSE MEETING THEM WILL BE NO EASY TASK.
PATAN (SHUT)
パタン…
…THOSE SAID TO BE EMBODIMENTS OF THE FOUR GUARDIAN STARS…

GET OUT!
GET OUT!
...THAT ALONE WOULD PROBABLY NOT SUFFICE TO QUELL THE FERVOUR OF THE FANATICS WHO FREQUENT THE HALL...
HOWEVER...
IT WOULD BE EASY FOR ME TO DESTROY THE MUSIC HALL AND MASSACRE BLAVAT AND THE OTHERS.
No.04
PERHAPS I SHOULD REPORT BACK TO THE YOUNG MASTER AT THIS JUNCTURE AND FILL HIM IN.
ズル…
ZURU (DRAG)

OH, I SAY.
TREATING A LADY IN THIS MANNER WILL GET ME QUITE A SCOLDING.
I HAVE RE-TURNED.
LIZZIE!
OH, THANK GOOD-NESS ...!!
GYU (HUG)
ギュっ…




WITH REGARD TO THE BLOOD I OBTAINED FROM THE FACILITY AT THE BACK OF THE MUSIC HALL...
...I ENTRUSTED IT ALL INTO THE HANDS OF LADY SULLIVAN.


AS FOR "THE FOUR WITH THE NAMES OF STARS" MISS NINA MENTIONED ...
...I WAS UNFORTUNATELY UNABLE TO CONFIRM THEIR WHEREABOUTS.

SHE RECEIVED IT WITH A TWINKLE IN HER EYES, SO I EXPECT WE MIGHT SOON HAVE NEWS.

LORD EDWARD.
WHY DID YOU COME BACK WHEN YOU SAW PROOF OF THEIR EVIL DEEDS WITH YOUR OWN EYES!?

NEVER YOU MIND THAT, BUTLER!
GACHA GACHAPO

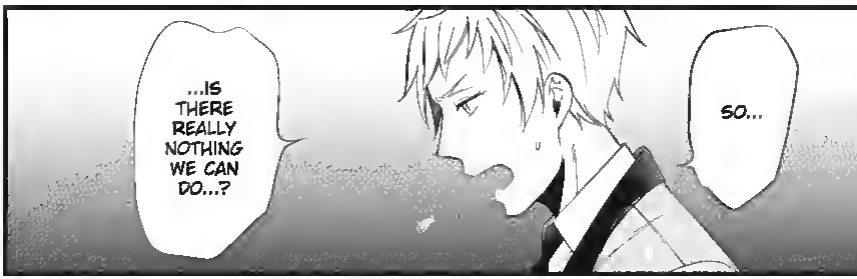
I HAVE SEEN A GREAT MANY CHURCHES AND TEMPLES...
...LAID TO WASTE IN RELIGIOUS WARS, ALL IN THE NAME OF SHAKING THE FAITH OF THE BELIEVERS.

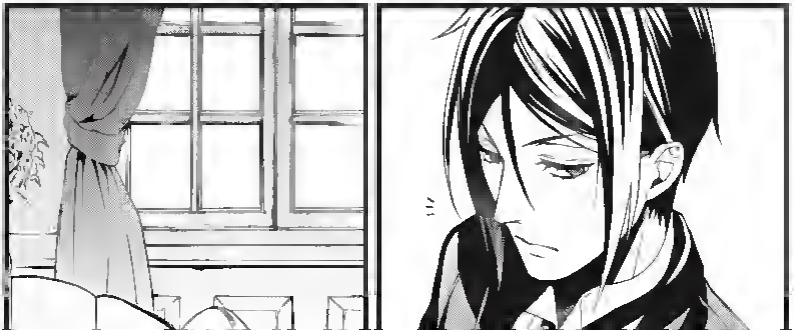
I RETURNED BECAUSE I THOUGHT THERE WOULD BE NO POINT IN DESTROYING THE MUSIC HALL.

HUNH?

BUT THEY WERE NOTHING MORE THAN SYMBOLS.
EVEN IF THEY WERE DECIMATED, THE EFFECT WAS ONLY TEMPORARY.
ON THE CONTRARY, THEIR RUIN COULD EVEN INTENSIFY THE ZEAL OF THE PEOPLE.
THE MORE EMOTIONS ARE OPPRESSED, THE MORE THEY TEND TO FLARE UP.
THAT IS THE KIND OF CREATURE MAN IS, DO YOU NOT AGREE?

RIGHT NOW, TO THE POPULACE OF LONDON, THE S4 AND BLAVAT ARE CHARISMATIC CELEBRITIES.
FORCEFULLY CRUSHING THEM WILL ONLY WORK IN OUR DISFAVOUR.


SO...
...IS THERE REALLY NOTHING WE CAN DO...?



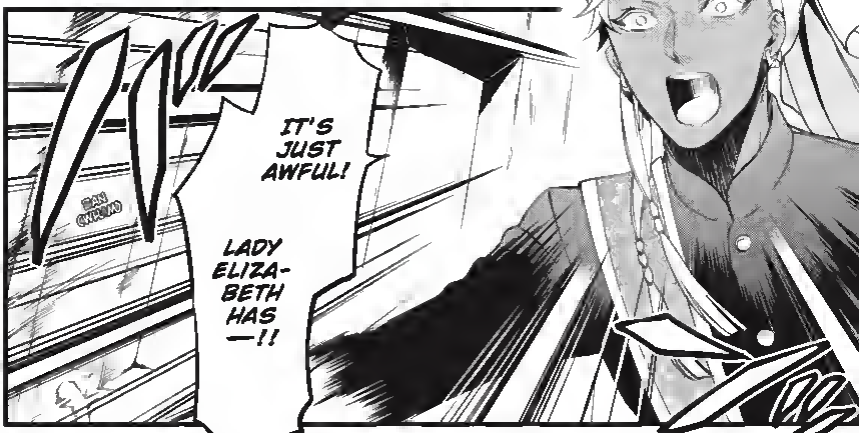
UNLIKE THE FLESH, YOU CANNOT SEE OR TOUCH A HUMAN HEART.
HUMAN HEARTS ARE QUITE IRKSOME, YOU SEE.
AND NOT EVEN A DEVIL OR A GOD...
...CAN BIND THE HEART OF ANOTHER IN THE TRUEST SENSE OF THE WORD.

Black Butler

CHAPTER 118

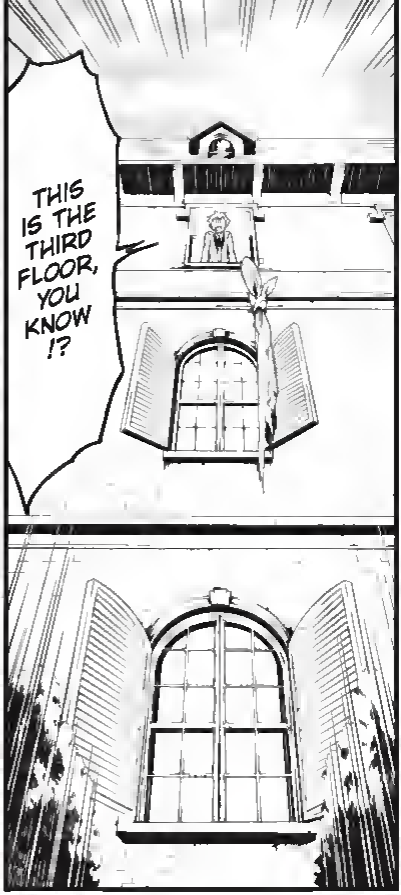
At night : The Butler, Remodelling

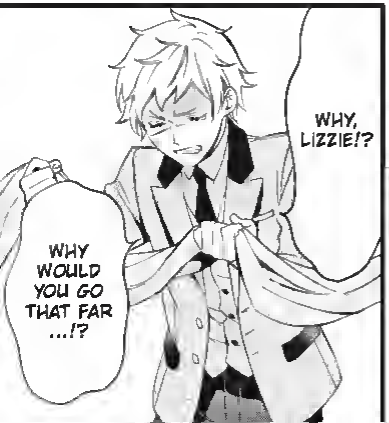
EVERYONE!!
バタバタ
BATA (STOMP)
BATA


IT'S JUST AWFUL!
LADY ELIZA-BETH HAS —!!
BAN (SHOVING)

HYUUUU (WHISTLING)
ヒュウ
ウ
ウ...

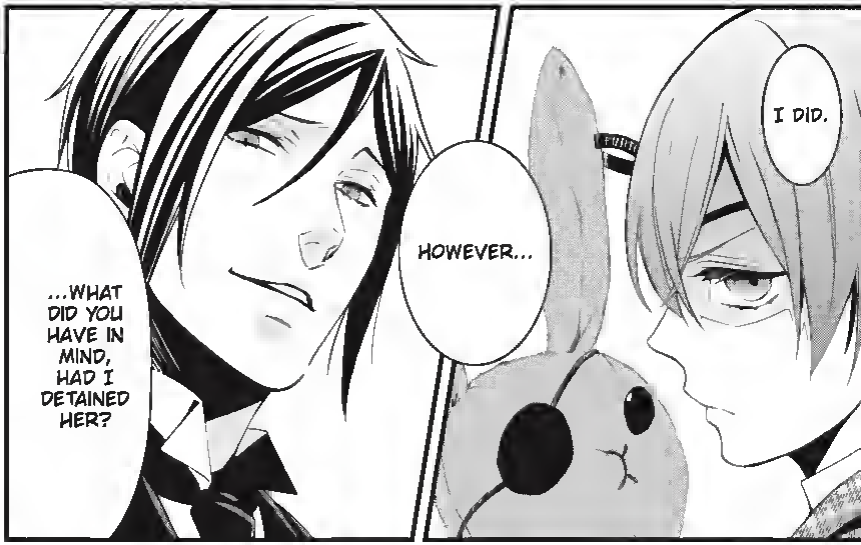
I EXPECTED SHE MIGHT BE AWAKE AND CAME TO ASK AFTER HER...
...BUT SHE HAD ALREADY GONE...

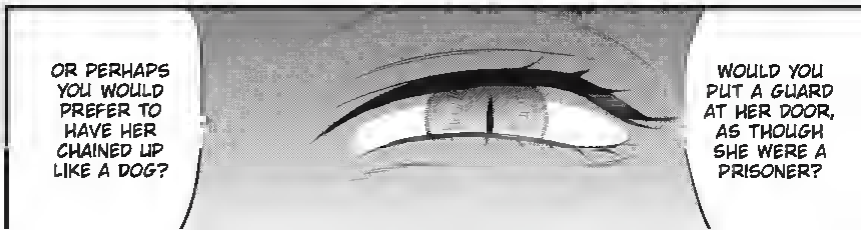

THIS IS THE THIRD FLOOR, YOU KNOW!?


WHY, LIZZIE!?
WHY WOULD YOU GO THAT FAR...!?

SHE TIED THE CURTAINS TOGETHER TO GET OUT...

...KNEW ABOUT THIS, DIDN'T YOU?
YOU...
SU (SWF)


...WHAT DID YOU HAVE IN MIND, HAD I DETAINED HER?
HOWEVER...
I DID.


OR PERHAPS YOU WOULD PREFER TO HAVE HER CHAINED UP LIKE A DOG?
WOULD YOU PUT A GUARD AT HER DOOR, AS THOUGH SHE WERE A PRISONER?

AS LONG AS LADY ELIZABETH'S HEART IS UNDER THE SPELL OF SPHERE MUSIC HALL...
...THIS WILL CONTINUE TO HAPPEN, NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES YOU BRING HER BACK.
HOW DARE YOU ...!?
I HAVE ALREADY TOLD YOU.
BINDING THE HEART OF ANOTHER IS IMPOSSIBLE.
WHAT IS THIS "RADIANCE" OF HERS THAT CAN'T BE FOUND ANYWHERE BUT THERE!?
WHAT IN THE WORLD COULD HAVE ENCHANTED HER HEART LIKE THIS!?

TRUE...
LIZZIE LOVES FORTUNE-TELLING, SO IT'S ENTIRELY POSSIBLE.
THE DIVINER BLAVAT MAY HAVE PUT IDEAS INTO HER HEAD...
...AND BRAIN-WASHED HER.
...AND I ALONE
...SIMPLY CAN'T GO BACK TO HIS SIDE!!
IT SEEMS SOMEONE IS AT THE DOOR.
I SHALL GO!
TA (CHAP)
TA (CHAP)
!!!! (BUZZ)
HA (GASP)

ANY-WAY...
...THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO UNLESS LIZZIE HERSELF WANTS TO COME BACK.
HELLO!
ZAWA (MURMUR)
ざわ
ZAWA
ざわ...
HEY! DID I NOT TELL YOU THAT YOU MUSTN'T COME IN THROUGH THE FRONT ENTRANCE?
BUT YOU WEREN'T AT THE BACK DOOR!
BUT...
...UNTIL WE DISCOVER THE OBJECT OF LIZZIE'S OBSESSION, OUR HANDS ARE TIED.
RIGHT PECKISH, I AM.
OH! YOU'RE ALL HERE!
QUICK, MISTER, QUICK!
LET'S MAKE A NICE LINE —!
わい!
わい! (NOISY)
IT ISN'T JUST THE ISSUE OF LIZZIE.
LONDONERS ALL OVER THE CITY ARE INFATUATED WITH THE BLOOD-EXPERIMENTING ORGANISATION HOLED UP AT SPHERE MUSIC HALL.
IN ORDER TO ALSO CURB ANY FURTHER HARM, WE—
GIMME SOME TOO!
AWW, NO FAIR!
NO NEED TO PUSH AND SHOVE WE HAVE PLENTY—
DON'T JUMP THE QUEUE!
STOP FIGHTING AND BE NICE!
HEY!
わい!

!?
WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU DO—
HEY!! KEEP IT DOWN!

DON GEAMO
WHY IS THERE A SWARM OF CHILDREN HERE!?

WHAT!?
WE'RE JUST GIVING THEM FOOD.
HUH ...?

HANAAAH!
PRINCE SOMA! YOU HAVE BECOME SUCH A FINE MAN!
AS A PRINCE AND THE VICEROY OF THIS RESIDENCE ...
...IT IS MY DUTY TO HELP THE COMMON PEOPLE, OF COURSE!!
DOYA (PROUD)
YOU HAVE SUCH A THING HERE IN GREAT BRITAIN, RIGHT?
NOBLESSE OBLIGE.

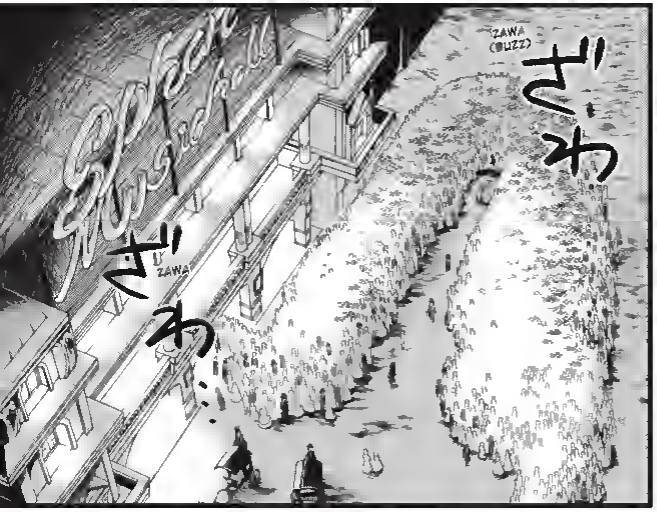
WELL, THAT'S 'COS THE BREAD HERE'S THE BEST, MISTER!
AND EVERYONE'S JUST SO NICE!

WAI (NOISY)
EVERY-THING HAS ITS LIMITS!
THIS PLACE HAS TURNED INTO A SOUP KITCHEN!
WAI
I SPY MANY NEW FACES...
IT SEEMS STREET URCHINS FROM OTHER PARTS OF THE CITY ARE ALSO IN ATTEN-DANCE.
WAI

HA-?
WHO'S?

HA HA ...
NOW I SEE.
わい
WAI
I SHALL TAKE WHATEVER SCOLDING YOU—
FORGIVE US, LORD CIEL.
HOW COULD I...
...HAVE FAILED TO REALISE SOMETHING AS SIMPLE AS THIS!?
I THANK YOU TWO FOR A JOB WELL DONE!
QUITE THE CONTRARY!
UP-SET?
ARE YOU NOT UPSET WITH US?

I KNOW, RIGHT!?
EEH!?
NYU (POP)


ZAWA (BUZZ)
ざわ
ZAWA
ざわ

TWO WEEKS LATER

I'M GOLLY! SO EXCITED I CAN'T STAND IT!
GAYA
がや
I WONDER WHAT THEY'LL SING TODAY?
I'VE GOT ALL THE DANCE MOVES DOWN!
GAYA (CHATTER)
がや
THE FOURTH SATUR-DAY'S HERE AT LAST!

INCAN-
DESCENCE
THAT SHINES
FAR AND WIDE,
FROM A SEA
OF STARS
THAT DOES
ABIDE.
HARK,
STARDUST,
WITH YOUR
WANDERING
SOULS!
...ARE
STARS OF
THE FIRST
MAGNITUDE,
SHINING
BLUE AND
BRIGHT.
ILLUMINATING
YOUR ENDLESS
NIGHT...
...THE
ETERNAL
RADIANCE.
...TO
PROTECT...
WE
OFFER UP
OUR OWN
LIGHTS...
WE
THANK
YOU FOR
LENDING
YOUR
VOICES
TO OUR
SONG.
PACHI
PACHI
PACHI
PACHI
PACHI
PACHI

...TONIGHT, ONCE MORE, WE DELIVER TO YOU THE RADIANCE OF YOUR CELESTIAL GUARDIANS.
NOW, THEN...
LET'S SING.
ALL OF US, TOGETH-ER!
YOU'RE SOOOO DASH-ING!!
WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU, SI!
THE SI ARE IN BRAND-NEW COS-TUMES!
WOW!

WE'LL BE PERFORMING OUR NEW SONG FOR YOU TODAY.
SO WITHOUT FURTHER ADO, PLEASE GIVE IT A LISTEN!
THIS IS "SEARCH FOR SIRIUS"!
HM?
THE CHORUS IS STILL ON STAGE...
DID THEY MISS THEIR CUE!?
HEH

!?
HEY, YOU FRAUDS.
YOU SERIOUSLY CALL THAT PIDDLING FLICKER "RADIANCE"?
DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH.
WE'RE GONNA GIVE YOU A TASTE OF THE REAL THING!
GU (TUG)

BAGA
FLAP

COME ON!
HERE WE GO!!
A PAPER NIGHT SKY, IMITATION STAR!
A MAGIC LANTERN SPINS THIS BORING SATURDAY NIGHT!
THAT'S ...!?
MIDFORD!?
CHESLOCK...
HARCOURT!?
AND EVEN KAPAR!

SAY GOOD-BYE!
TO THE CHILD WHO PLAYED WITH TOYS!
NOW TAKE MY HAND!
A DARK NIGHT SKY, DESTRUCTION STAR!
IT'S NOT JUST A PRETTY SIGHT, THIS THRILLING, SLEEPLESS NIGHT!
I'LL TAKE YOU THERE TONIGHT!

TO THE NEW LAND OF PROMISED NIGHT!
WHA—!?
ZAWA (CLAMOUR)
ざわ
ざわ
ざわ
ざわ
ざわ
ざわ
ざわ
WHO ARE THEY?
UH, I THINK IT'S MORE LIKE THEY STOLE THE SHOW?
IS THIS PART OF THE SHOW?
I THINK I LIKE THEM...

RULING OVER THE LONDON NIGHTS —!
WE ARE THE PHAN-TOM FIVE!

SU (SWF)
ANYONE WHO WANTS TO REALLY GET THEIR DANCE ON SHOULD HEAD OUT.

WE'LL DRIVE YOU WILD ALL NIGHT LONG.
(CLICK)
NO.
IT CAN'T BE!
BA (DASH)
AH! MISTER BLAVAT !?
NIYA (SMIRK)
HEY..! WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU!?
FURA (SWOON)
TH-THIS COULD BE BAD...
BAN (SLAM)

UNTOM

Ticket
TODAY'S PERFORMANCE WILL BE STARTING SOON.
NTOM Con
HERE YOU GO! NEW FUNTOM SWEETIES!
WHAT DO YOU SAY TO A FRESHLY-MADE, PIPING HOT CURRY BUN?
DON DON

H-HOW COULD THIS BE?
THERE USED TO BE A LITTLE ABANDONED THEATRE ACROSS THE WAY FROM US...
THIS PROPERTY ...
はっ?
PASA (PHAT)
...WAS MORE OF A BARGAIN THAN I EXPECTED.
KOTO (CLINK)
コトッ
THE INVESTMENT ASIDE, YOU GAVE ME BUT A FORTNIGHT TO MAKE THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE GRAND OPENING, NOT TO MENTION THE WHOLESALE REMODELLING OF THE VENUE.
AS ALWAYS, YOU ASK FOR THE IMPOSSIBLE.
I AM VERY GLAD TO HEAR THAT.
HMPH!

STILL, I MUST SAY... ESTABLISHING AN IMITATION RIGHT ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE ORIGINAL...
...IS TERRIBLY CHEEKY AND WICKED OF YOU, YOUNG MASTER
IF BINDING ANOTHER'S HEART IS OUT OF THE QUESTION, THEN WE JUST HAVE TO GIVE THEM A CHOICE AND LEAVE THEM TO IT.
IT'S AS SIMPLE AS THAT.

RIGHT.

GATA (CLATTER)
SO OPERATING A THEATRE'S PERFECTLY NATURAL, DON'T YOU THINK...?
CONFECTIONS, TOYS, RESTAURANTS, CAFÉS...
THE FUNTOM CORPORATION IS IN THE BUSINESS OF ENTERTAINMENT.

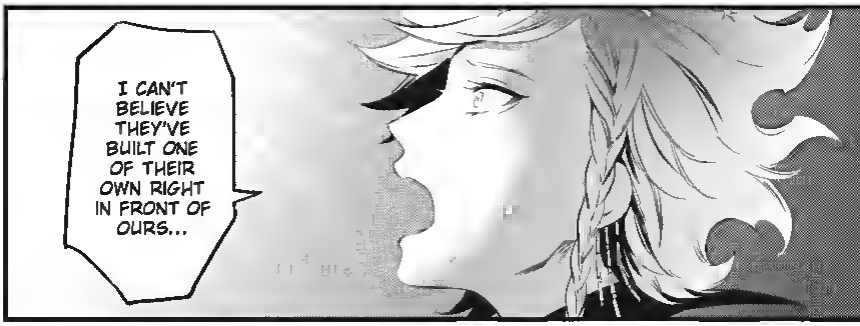
I'M GOING TO SCHOOL YOU LOT IN THE ART OF THE FINEST ENTERTAINMENT MONEY CAN BUY.
FUNTOM MUSIC HALL...
FUNTOM MUSIC HALL
...IS NOW OPEN!

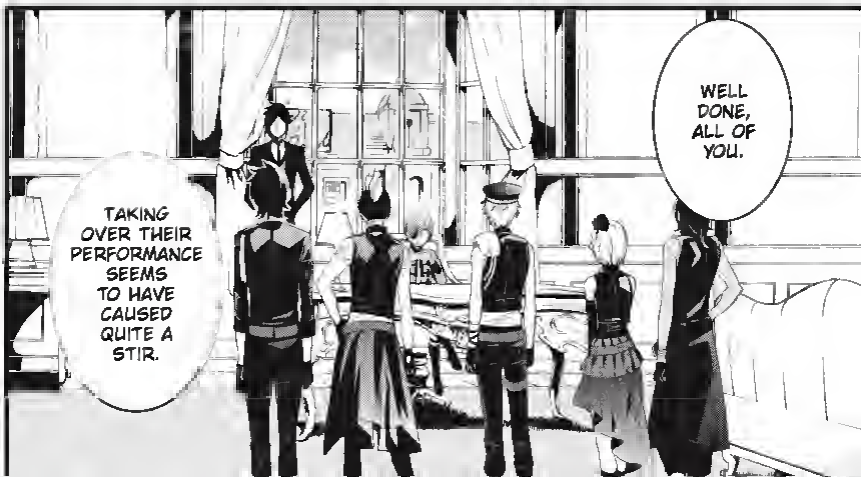
Black Butler

Chapter 119

At midnight, The Butler, Instructing

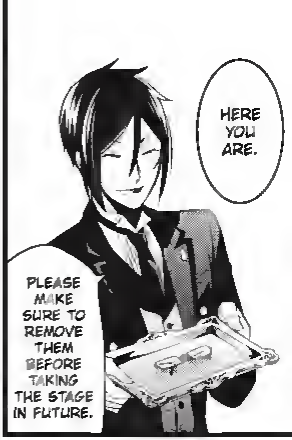
FUNTOM MUSIC HALL!?
FUNTOM MUSICHALL


I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY'VE BUILT ONE OF THEIR OWN RIGHT IN FRONT OF OURS...


WELL DONE, ALL OF YOU.
TAKING OVER THEIR PERFORMANCE SEEMS TO HAVE CAUSED QUITE A STIR.

THE AUDIENCE WAS MOST SURPRISED!
I WISH YOU HAD BEEN THERE TO SEE IT TOO, CIEL!
I-I WAS SOOO NERVOUS!
WAS THAT HOOLIGAN ACT YOU MADE ME PUT ON REALLY NECESSARY?
IF ONLY THE LADS BACK AT COLLEGE COULDA SEEN THEIR RIDICULOUSLY SERIOUS GREEN HOUSE PREFECT!
THEY'D PRACTICALLY FALL OVER DEAD FROM THE SHOCK!
BEGGING YOUR PARDON. MIGHT I HAVE MY GLASSES RETURNED TO ME?
I CAN'T SEE A THING.

BAAN (SHOVED)
PISHI (DROPPED)
PHEW...


HERE YOU ARE.
PLEASE MAKE SURE TO REMOVE THEM BEFORE TAKING THE STAGE IN FUTURE.

VERY WELL.
KASHA (COMB)
MY HAIR NOT BEING NEAT ALSO MAKES ME UNEASY.

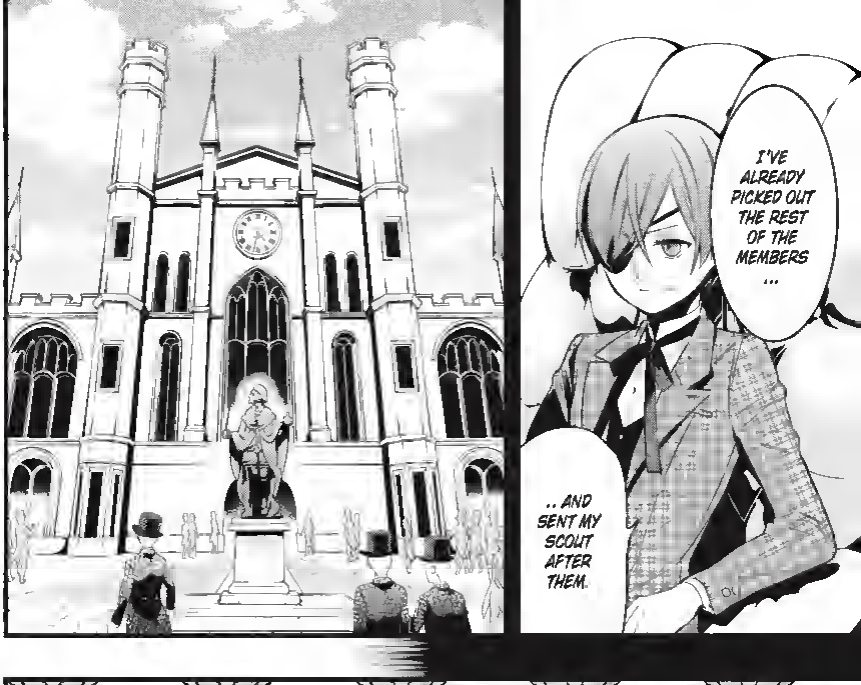
HA HA...

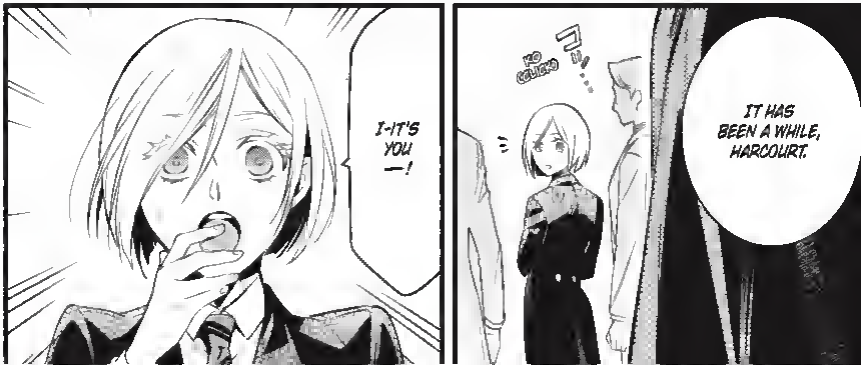
?
ALL THE SAME... CLAYTON TAKES THE CAKE FOR THE MOST EXTREME TRANSFORMATION, I'D SAY.

WE'RE BUILDING OUR OWN MUSIC HALL!?
THAT'S RIGHT.
WE'LL CREATE A NEW CHARISMATIC ENTITY TO TAKE THE PLACE OF THE SA AND MAKE THEM THE OBJECT OF THE PUBLIC'S PASSIONATE AFFECTIONS INSTEAD
IS SUCH A THING EVEN POSSIBLE?
TAKE TEA FOR EXAMPLE.
IF THE COST WAS THE SAME FOR BOTH YOU'D PICK THE MORE FRAGRANT AND FLAVOUR-SOME ONE WOULDN'T YOU?
IT'S THAT SIMPLE.
KACHA
カチャ
IT IS INDEED.

CONSUMERS ARE JUST THAT CRUEL AND EASY TO UNDERSTAND.
UNDER THOSE SAME CONDITIONS, ONE WOULD OPT FOR CAKE FROM THE FINER BAKER...
...THE FASTER HORSE...
...AND THE MORE COMPETENT VALET.
WE HAVE ONE, DON'T WE?
RIGHT HERE.
PERHAPS YOU'RE RIGHT...
...BUT WHERE WILL WE FIND A TALENTED INDIVIDUAL WITH ENOUGH CHARISMA TO RIVAL THAT OF THE S4...?
NI
GRIND
M-ME!?
HUNH!?

YOU'RE A CURRENT PREFECT AT THE PRESTIGIOUS WESTON COLLEGE AND THE HEIR TO A MARQUESSATE.
YOU'RE BOTH ATHLETIC AND ATTRACTIVE.
I DOUBT WE'D FIND ANYONE MORE SUITED TO THE ROLE.
BUT I CAN'T SING AND DANCE—
EDWARD.
YOU DO WANT TO GET ELIZABETH BACK, DON'T YOU?
HA (GASP)
BUT I CAN'T DO IT BY MYSELF—
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT.


I'VE ALREADY PICKED OUT THE REST OF THE MEMBERS ...
.. AND SENT MY SCOUT AFTER THEM.


I-IT'S YOU —!
NO CHECK
IT HAS BEEN A WHILE, HARCOURT.

PROFESSOR MICHAELIS!
YOU LEFT YOUR POST SO SUDDENLY... I DIDN'T EVEN GET THE CHANCE TO SAY GOOD-BYE...
I'VE LONGED TO SEE YOU AGAIN ALL THIS TIME, SIR!
HEH HEH!
DO YOU HAVE A MOMENT?
THIS MATTER IS NOT AN EASY ONE FOR US TO RESOLVE OUR-SELVES.
SO PLEASE... WILL YOU NOT HELP US?
SO THAT'S WHAT'S BECOME OF RED-MOND AND THE OTHERS
I NEVER DREAMED THAT SOMEONE OF YOUR CALIBRE WOULD SEEK AID FROM THE LIKES OF ME, SIR...

FOR YOU... I'LL DO ANYTHING!
YOU SAVED ME WHEN I WAS ALONE AND FRIENDLESS HERE, SIR!
ALL RIGHT!

COULD BE A RIGHT LAUGH, THAT!
OOH. WANNA KNOCK 'EM ON THEIR HEADS, DO YA?

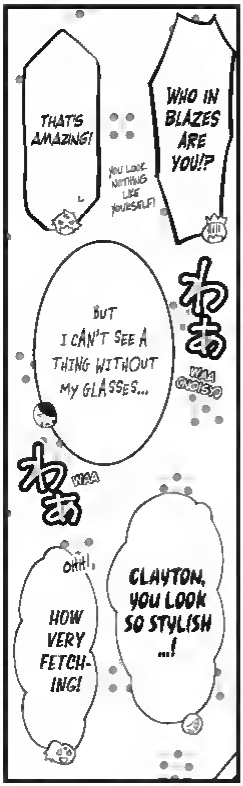
I SHALL OFFER MY ASSISTANCE.
I DON'T WISH TO SEE OUR FORMER PREFECTS SINK EVEN LOWER.

I'D BE HAPPY TO LEND A HAND!
IF MY LITTLE BROTHER CIEL'S IN A FIX, THAT'S WHERE I COME IN!

I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU ALL HERE TODAY.

THE CITIZENS OF LONDON ARE BEING ENDANGERED BY THE EXISTENCE OF THE S4.
THAT'S WHY I'VE CALLED ON YOU TO HELP.

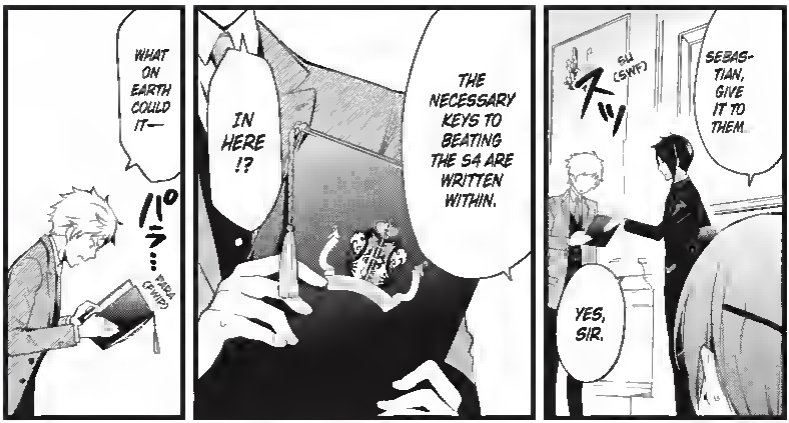
THAT'S ALL WELL 'N' GOOD, BUT YOU SURE WE'LL BE UP TO SNUFF WITH THIS LOT!?
KACHIN (SNAP)
カチンッ☆
ESPECIALLY THAT BOOKWORM OVER THERE!
AH.
I SHALL HAVE YOU KNOW THAT HE HAS THE MAKINGS OF A STAR.
IF I MAY, MASTER CLAYTON,
BLINK
INK
INK


WHO IN BLAZES ARE YOU!?
YOU LOOK NOTHING LIKE YOURSELF!
THAT'S AMAZING!
BUT I CAN'T SEE A THING WITHOUT MY GLASSES...
わあ
WAA
わあ
WAA
CLAYTON, YOU LOOK SO STYLISH ...!
OHH!
HOW VERY FETCHING!

SHIRAGAN (CHANGSOME)
HUH ...?
WHAAA —!?
?

I'M LOATH TO INTERRUPT YOUR EXCITEMENT, BUT WE'RE SHORT ON TIME.
THE MUSIC HALL OPENS IN A FORTNIGHT.
AS SUCH, I'LL NEED YOU TO UNDERGO SPECIAL TRAINING, STARTING NOW.

PAN (CLAP)
PAN


SEBASTIAN, GIVE IT TO THEM.
SU (SWIP)
YES, SIR.
THE NECESSARY KEYS TO BEATING THE S4 ARE WRITTEN WITHIN.
IN HERE!?
WHAT ON EARTH COULD IT—
PARA (FLIP)

!?
WHAT IS THIS!?
WHAT DOES "PERSONA BACK-GROUND" EVEN MEAN!?

THE GROUP'S APPEAL WILL BE STRONGER IF EACH MEMBER HAS HIS OWN OBVIOUS, UNIQUE CHARAC-TERISTICS.
SO FROM TODAY ON, YOU'LL ALL LIVE IN THOSE CHARACTERS THAT HAVE BEEN PREPARED FOR YOU.
HUUUH!?
?

"A LITTLE DEVIL OF A YOUNGER BROTHER"?
"A LITTLE NAUGHTY AND AGGRESSIVE"!?
"A HAUGHTY RICH BOY."
I CAN'T REALLY SEE WHAT I'M READING...
"A COOL-HEADED INTELLECTUAL"...
...UH. HOW COME I'M THE ONLY ONE WITH NOTHING!?
"NOTHING IN PARTICULAR. YOU ALREADY MAKE QUITE AN IMPRESSION. PLEASE KEEP IT UP."

HMM.
SO WHAT EXACTLY MUST I DO...
...TO BE "A LITTLE NAUGHTY AND AGGRESSIVE"?
YOU TRYIN' TO PICK A FIGHT WITH ME, HUH!!?
NO ORDINARY MORTAL WOULD EVER CONSIDER ATTENDING ONE OF THE MOST DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN GREAT BRITAIN WITH THAT HAIR AND MAKEUP, MASTER CHESLOCK!
SO PLEASE HAVE FAITH IN YOURSELF!
BOOM (SWING)
SU (SWIF)
VERY GOOD, SIR.
SEBASTIAN, SHOW HIM.
?
NIKO (SMILE)
NIKO
ZUI (CLEAND)

TSUTSU (STROKE)
STOP PLAYING INNOCENT.
THIS IS WHAT YOU WERE HOPING FOR, IS IT NOT...
...MY LITTLE KITTEN?
ZOWA (SHIVER)
HUNH!? THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT ME TO DO!?
PA (CLAP)
THE RESULTS OF OUR RECENT STREET SURVEYS ...
...APPEAR TO INDICATE THAT WOMEN TEND TO BE ATTRACTED TO MEN WHO ARE SOMEWHAT FORCEFUL.

"I SHALL GIVE YOU TWENTY ELEPHANTS AS A REWARD."
"ADDRESS THE MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE AS 'BIG BROTHER' AND 'BIG SISTER'."
HMM. YOU LOOK SO GRAVE...
YOUR GOOD BREEDING SHINES THROUGH MOST IMPECCABLY.
REMEMBER, IT'S LADIES FIRST.
I HAVE RESERVATIONS ABOUT SPEAKING CRUDELY TO WOMEN.
IT'S NOVELTY AND INDIVIDUALITY THAT WILL PUT YOU OVER THE TOP!
SINGING AND DANCING LIKE THE S4 WILL ONLY MAKE YOU A PALE IMITATION.
MIMICKING THEIR ACT WILL PUT YOU ON AN EQUAL FOOTING, BUT VICTORY IS ANOTHER THING ENTIRELY.
HA HA HA
WILL THAT REALLY BE ENOUGH TO WIN AGAINST THE S4?

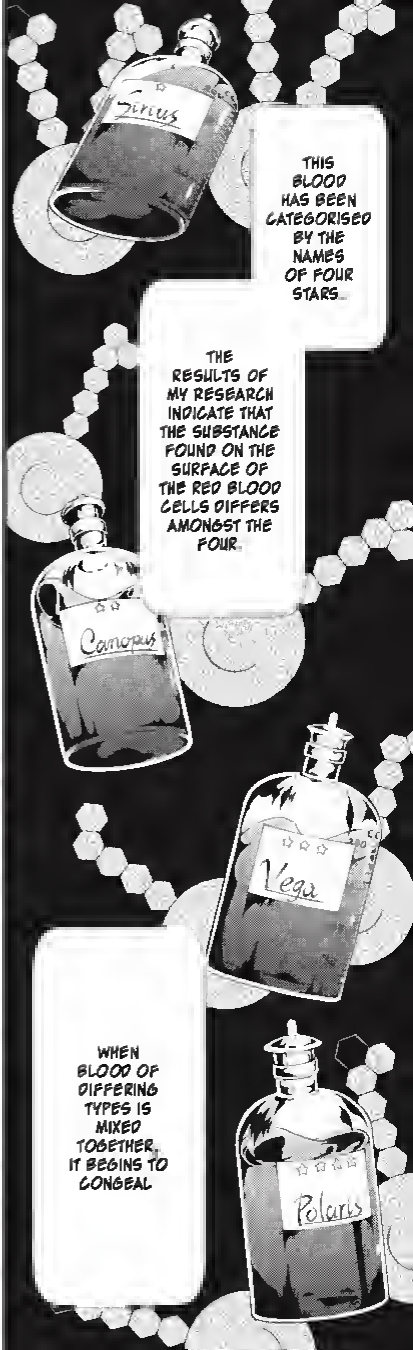
GO
GO
GO
GO
GO (RUMBLE)
GO
WHETHER WE WIN OR LOSE...
...DEPENDS COMPLETELY ON WHETHER OR NOT YOU YOURSELVES CAN INCREASE YOUR MARKET-ABILITY.
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR YOU GROUSE BEFORE YOU'VE EVEN BEGUN.
(SHIVER)
(GASP)
...THAT YOU ARE ALL THOROUGHLY TRAINED.
FOR I WILL TAKE RESPON-SIBILITY AND SEE TO IT...
PISH! (SMACK)
PISH!
PLEASE REST EASY.
(CRUNCH)
E-
EEEEE-!

HOW'S IT COMING?
RATHER WELL.

IF YOU IGNORE HIS MENTAL IMMATURITY, ISN'T HE COMPETENT AT JUST ABOUT EVERYTHING ...?
I CANNOT HELP BUT FEEL THAT ONE POINT RUINS IT ALL...
THAT'S BECAUSE PEOPLE IN MY COUNTRY EXPRESS EMOTIONS THROUGH DANCE!
PRINCE SOMA IS ESPECIALLY TALENTED.
HE IS NOT SHY AND PICKS UP THE DANCING AFTER SEEING THE STEPS DEMONSTRATED BUT ONCE.
I MYSELF HAVE DEVISED A NUMBER OF NEW CROWD-PLEASERS FOR OPENING NIGHT.
EH HEH! ALL RIGHT, THEN!
TEACH ME!
YOU'RE AMAZING!
LORD EDWARD SINCERELY RESPECTS HIS BETTERS, AND HE TOO IS QUICKLY PICKING UP ONE THING AFTER ANOTHER.
THAT REMINDS ME. HOW IS THE BLOOD RESEARCH GOING?
I HAVE YET TO HEAR FROM HER.
...I SEE.

JIWAA (SEE)
じわぁ…
POCHA (PLOP)
ポチャ…
THE COLOUR CHANGED!
THE EXPERIMENT IS A SUCCESS!!
WOLF!
YOUR BLOOD HAS THE SAME COMPOSITION AS "CANOPUS"!

THE REASON EARLY ATTEMPTS AT TRANSFUSION FAILED REPEATEDLY MUST HAVE BEEN BECAUSE THEY DIDN'T TYPE THE BLOOD IN THIS WAY.


Sirius
THIS BLOOD HAS BEEN CATEGORISED BY THE NAMES OF FOUR STARS.
THE RESULTS OF MY RESEARCH INDICATE THAT THE SUBSTANCE FOUND ON THE SURFACE OF THE RED BLOOD CELLS DIFFERS AMONGST THE FOUR.
Canopus
Vega
WHEN BLOOD OF DIFFERING TYPES IS MIXED TOGETHER, IT BEGINS TO CONGEAL
Polaris

THIS IS A DISCOVERY OF HISTORIC PROPOR-TIONS!!

THERE'S NO LONGER A NEED TO COLLECT ALL THOSE BLOOD SAMPLES IF THEY'VE ALREADY HIT UPON THESE RESULTS.
SO WHY THEN DO THEY CONTINUE TAKING BLOOD?
LOOKING AT IT ANOTHER WAY, DOESN'T THAT MEAN THOSE PEOPLE HAVE ALREADY SUCCEEDED WITH THEIR EXPERIMENTS IN BLOOD TRANSFUSION?
THAT'S JUST IT!

WHERE COULD THAT HUGE QUANTITY OF BLOOD BE VANISHING TO?

No.04
No.05

KO
GAUGH
THIS IS A PRETTY MAJOR OUTFIT THEY'VE GOT HERE.
I CAN SEE WHY ALL THOSE PEOPLE KEEP DYING OF BLOOD LOSS.
YEAH.

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN ...?
THEY'VE PROG-RESSED MORE THAN THEY OUGHT TO HAVE.
NO.
AND THEY'VE MADE CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS.

HEY, OTHELLO! DON'T IGNORE ME!
BUTSU
WHO ELSE IS THERE ...? HNNN.
THAT ONE DIDN'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT THIS STUFF...
BUTSU
無視 SNUB
BUTSU (MUMBLED)
BUTSU
EVERY NOW AND THEN, THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO ACQUIRE AMAZING TECHNOLOGY BY MAKING A DEAL WITH A DEVIL...
...BUT THIS IS A LITTLE MORE...
YEAH, YEAH. WHAT NOW?
...BUT ONE THING IS CERTAIN, DEAR GRELLE.
THERE'S A LOT I STILL DON'T GET HERE...
UGH, YOU'RE NOT LISTENING TO ME AT ALL, ARE YOU!?
THIS IS WHY I CAN'T STAND GEEKS LIKE YOU...
WHOEVER'S PULLING THE STRINGS BEHIND THE SCENES OF THIS BUSINESS...
KOPO (CLINK)

...WE NEED TO CHASE THEM DOWN RIGHT AWAY AND GIVE THEM A GOOD SPANKING.
OOH! ♡
WELL, WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST SAY SO!?

Black Butler

BLACK BUTLER IS NOW ENTERING ITS TENTH YEAR OF SERIALI-SATION.
WE COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOUR KIND SUPPORT.
AND FOR THAT, YOU HAVE OUR WARMEST THANKS.
THIS MONTH, WE BRING YOU A SPECIAL CHAPTER TO COMMEMO-RATE THIS ANNIVER-SARY.
WE HOPE YOU'LL KEEP READING BLACK BUTLER!
—SAYS EMILY

Bonus Chapter

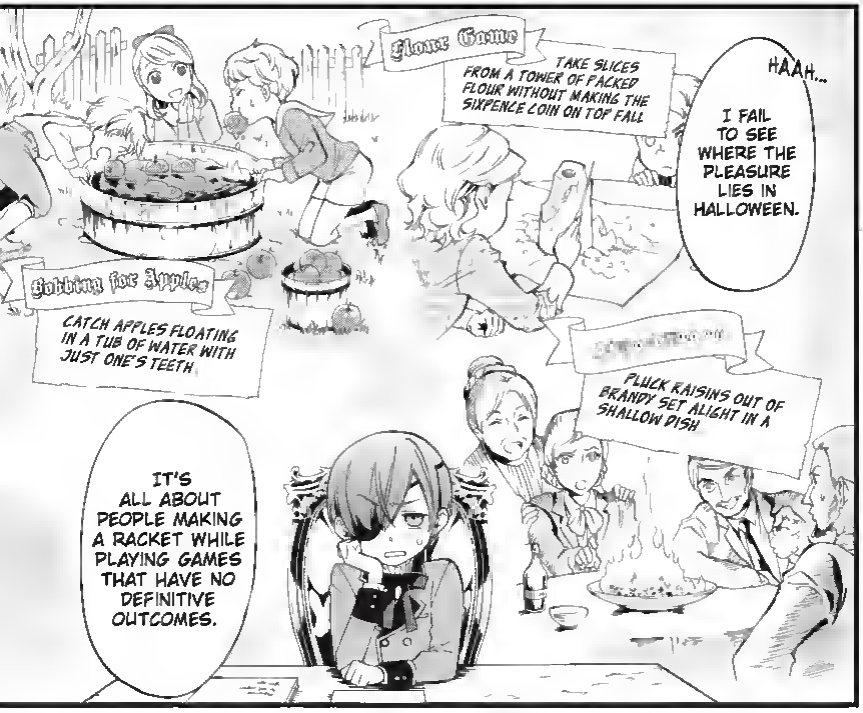
On a special day : The Butler, Lyrical

Black Butler

HALLOW-EEN...
...IS A FESTIVAL TO EXORCISE EVIL SPIRITS IN CELEBRATION OF THE AUTUMN HARVEST AND TO MARK THE ARRIVAL OF WINTER.
IT IS BELIEVED THAT THE BOUNDARY BETWEEN THE WORLDS OF THE LIVING AND DEAD GROWS THIN AT THIS TIME, ALLOWING THE SPIRITS OF THE DEPARTED TO RETURN—

YOUNG MASTER.
IT IS HIGH TIME YOU SAW TO THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE PHANTOMHIVE EARLDOM'S HALLOWEEN CELEBRATION.
OHH... IT'S OCTOBER ALREADY.
WE'RE STILL BUSY DEALING WITH LIZZIE'S PREDICA-MENT.
BUT THIS IS AN ANNUAL TRADITION.

FLOUR
HALLOWEEN IS AN IMPORTANT EVENT FOR THEM AS IT DOUBLES AS A HARVEST FESTIVAL.
MANY OF THE TENANTS ON PHANTOMHIVE LAND ARE FARMERS.


Flour Game
TAKE SLICES FROM A TOWER OF PACKED FLOUR WITHOUT MAKING THE SIXPENCE COIN ON TOP FALL
HAAH...
I FAIL TO SEE WHERE THE PLEASURE LIES IN HALLOWEEN.
Bobbing for Apples
CATCH APPLES FLOATING IN A TUB OF WATER WITH JUST ONE'S TEETH
PLUCK RAISINS OUT OF BRANDY SET ALIGHT IN A SHALLOW DISH
IT'S ALL ABOUT PEOPLE MAKING A RACKET WHILE PLAYING GAMES THAT HAVE NO DEFINITIVE OUTCOMES.

SO THIS IS SOMETHING YOU MUST DO, AND DO WELL.
...BUT TENANTS ARE OF THE GREATEST IMPORT TO THE LORD OF A MANOR.
I TOO FAIL TO COMPREHEND HUMAN GAMES...

SEBAS-TIAN, I COM-MAND YOU!
KIRI (SHARP)
RETURN TO THE MANOR AND PREPARE FOR THE HALLOWEEN CELEBRATION POSTHASTE!
I BELIEVE THAT IS WHAT IS KNOWN AS "PASSING THE BUCK."
LOOKING SHARP IS JUST PART OF IT, YOU KNOW...
OH, ALL RIGHT.
HAAH...

YOU'RE THE BUTLER OF THE PHANTOMHIVE FAMILY. SURELY IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT YOU'RE CAPABLE OF HANDLING A LITTLE EXTRA WORK ON THE SIDE?
YOU DO RECALL THAT YOU HAVE ONLY JUST COMMANDED ME TO SEE TO THE GRAND OPENING OF FUNTOM MUSIC HALL?

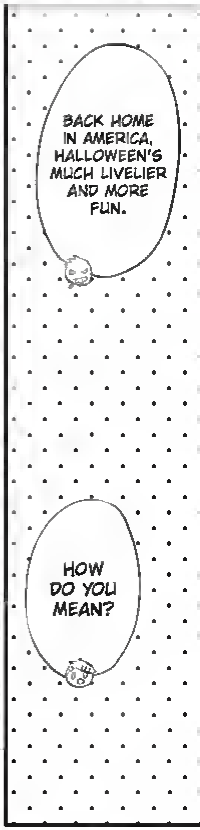
PLEASE LEAVE IT ALL TO ME.
HIKU (TWITCH)
...YES, OF COURSE.
VERY GOOD, SIR.

—AND SO...
...IT IS ONCE AGAIN UP TO US TO GET THE HALLOWEEN FESTIVITIES UNDERWAY.
MEY-RIN, SNAKE, RETRIEVE THE METAL BASINS AND ENAMELLED PLATTERS FROM STORAGE AND POLISH THEM TO A SHINE.
YES, SIR! YES!
YOU GOT IT!
—SAYS OSCAR.
FINNY, COLLECT TURNIPS FOR THE JACK-O'-LAN-TERNS.
'KAyyy!
BALDO, PROCURE THE APPLES AND RAISINS.
YESSIR.

THIS IS MY THIRD ONE.
SAY..
DON'T YOU GET BORED OF DOIN' THE SAME THING EVERY YEAR? I MEAN, YOU FINALLY HAVE A CHANCE TO CUT LOOSE.
ENGLISH HALLOW-EENS ARE SO DULL.

?
MISTER TANAKA ...
...AS YOU WERE.
HOH!

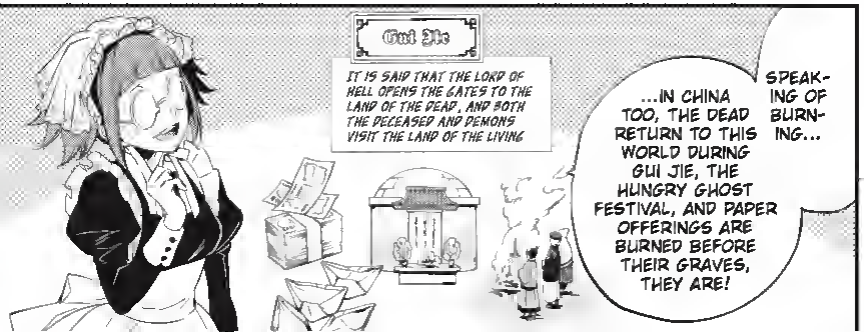
AMERICAN HALLOWEEN
TO SCARE OFF THE WITCHES AND EVIL SPIRITS THAT COME OVER FROM THE OTHER SIDE WITH THE DEAD...
...WE DRESS UP IN MONSTER COSTUMES!
AND OUR JACK-O'-LANTERNS ARE MADE OUTTA PUMPKINS INSTEAD OF TURNIPS, SO THEY'RE ORANGE AND LOUD TOO!


BACK HOME IN AMERICA, HALLOWEEN'S MUCH LIVELIER AND MORE FUN.
HOW DO YOU MEAN?

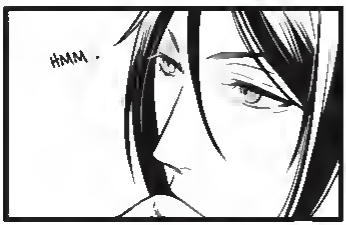
HMM.
WELL, THE MAIN EVENT HERE IN ENGLAND IS GUY FAWKES NIGHT, WHICH COMES FIVE DAYS AFTER HALLOWEEN.
OOOH, THAT SOUNDS LIKE FUN!
KIDS GET CANDY BY GOING AROUND TO HOUSES SAYING "TRICK OR TREAT!"

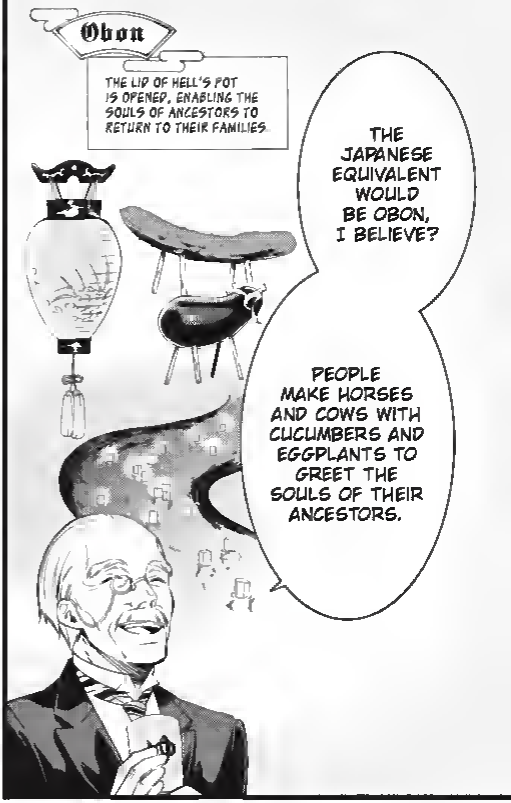
*"GUY FAWKES NIGHT": THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARREST OF GUY FAWKES, A MEMBER OF THE PLOT TO BLOW UP THE HOUSE OF LORDS AND ASSASSINATE KING JAMES I

YOU MAKE IT SOUND SO BORING!
THEN AGAIN, THAT TOO IS ALL ABOUT PEOPLE GETTING ROWDY, PARADING AROUND AND BURNING EFFIGIES OF GUY FAWKES WHILE SETTING OFF FIREWORKS.


Gui Jie
IT IS SAID THAT THE LORD OF HELL OPENS THE GATES TO THE LAND OF THE DEAD, AND BOTH THE DECEASED AND DEMONS VISIT THE LAND OF THE LIVING
SPEAKING OF BURNING...
...IN CHINA TOO, THE DEAD RETURN TO THIS WORLD DURING GUI JIE, THE HUNGRY GHOST FESTIVAL, AND PAPER OFFERINGS ARE BURNED BEFORE THEIR GRAVES, THEY ARE!

WOWWW! THEY ALL SOUND FUN!!
THERE ARE ALL KINDS OF WAYS TO CELEBRATE HALLOWEEN, AREN'T THERE?
—SAYS EMILY.


HMM.


Obon
THE LID OF HELL'S POT IS OPENED, ENABLING THE SOULS OF ANCESTORS TO RETURN TO THEIR FAMILIES.
THE JAPANESE EQUIVALENT WOULD BE OBON, I BELIEVE?
PEOPLE MAKE HORSES AND COWS WITH CUCUMBERS AND EGGPLANTS TO GREET THE SOULS OF THEIR ANCESTORS.

HAL-LOWEEN DAY
CLOP CLOP (GALLOP)

WELCOME HOME, YOUNG MASTER.
ARE YOU ALL READY FOR HALLOWEEN THEN?
PLEASE SEE FOR YOURSELF.
HEH!
?
THIS WAY TO THE GARDEN, PLEASE.

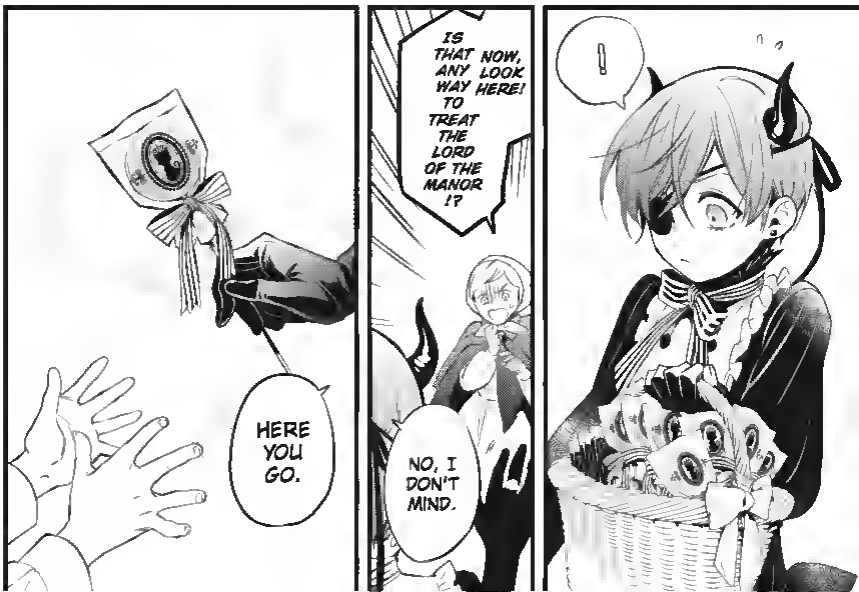
TRICK OR...
YOUNG MAAASTER ...!!
WHAT IS ALL THIS ...!?

わや
WAYA CHEEKY!?
!?
WHAT THE HELL !?
わや
UWAAAAA!!
HUH !?
C'MON, GUYS!!
ALL RIIIIGHT! "TRICK" IT IS!
WAH!!
わ
...TREAT!!
—SAYS DONNE.

I AM TOLD IT IS PART OF HALLOWEEN, AMERICAN-STYLE.
YOUR WALKING STICK, SIR.
WHAT ON EARTH AM I WEARING!?
YOU DO RECALL SAYING...
...THAT YOU FAILED TO SEE THE FUN IN HALLOWEEN?
WHY THIS ALL OF A SUDDEN ...?
SO WE COMBINED VARIOUS HALLOWEEN-LIKE HOLIDAYS FROM AROUND THE WORLD TO MAKE OUR CELEBRATION...
...WITH THE SINGULAR INTENT OF SHOWING OUR TENANTS THE TIME OF THEIR LIVES.

I AM THE BUTLER OF THE PHANTOMHIVE FAMILY.
IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT I CAN FURNISH OUR GUESTS WITH ENTERTAINMENT THAT GOES ABOVE AND BEYOND THEIR EXPECTATIONS.
YOU'RE ALWAYS SO FULL OF YOURSELF...
OH!
SOUNDS LIKE THE TENANTS ARE HERE!
ざわ
ざわ
ざわ
ざわ...

TRICK OR TREAT!
THAT'S "EARL PHANTOM-HIVE" TO YOU, MISTER!
YOUNG MASTER!
THANK YOU FOR REPAIRING THE VILLAGE ROADS.
EVEN OUR OLD DONKEYS CAN TRANSPORT THE MILK WITH NEXT TO NO EFFORT!
EARL PHANTOM-HIVE!
I BAKED THESE ROLLS WITH OUR WHEAT.
CARE TO HAVE A TASTE?


HERE YOU GO.
IS THAT ANY WAY TO TREAT THE LORD OF THE MANOR!?
NOW, LOOK HERE!
NO, I DON'T MIND.
!

THIS HALLOWEEN'S BEEN THE BEST ONE EVER!
THANK YOU, MILORD!
Wat.....!
AH...

THE PARTY IS STILL GOING STRONG, BUT I THINK IT IS TIME TO CALL IT A NIGHT.
NIKO (SMILE)
R...
RIGHT.

YOUNG MASTER.
HA (GASP)
は、
!

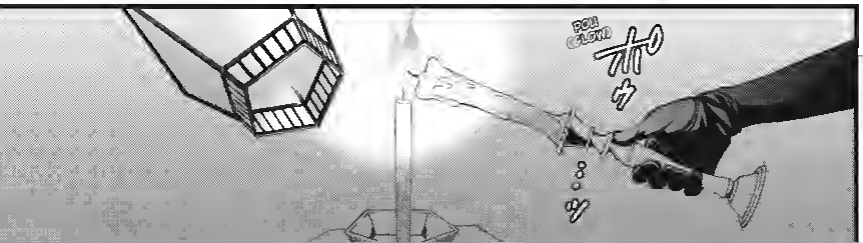
HOWEVER, BEFORE YOU ADDRESS EVERYONE WITH YOUR CLOSING WORDS...
...THERE IS ONE MORE THING WITH WHICH I WOULD LIKE TO TASK YOU.
?

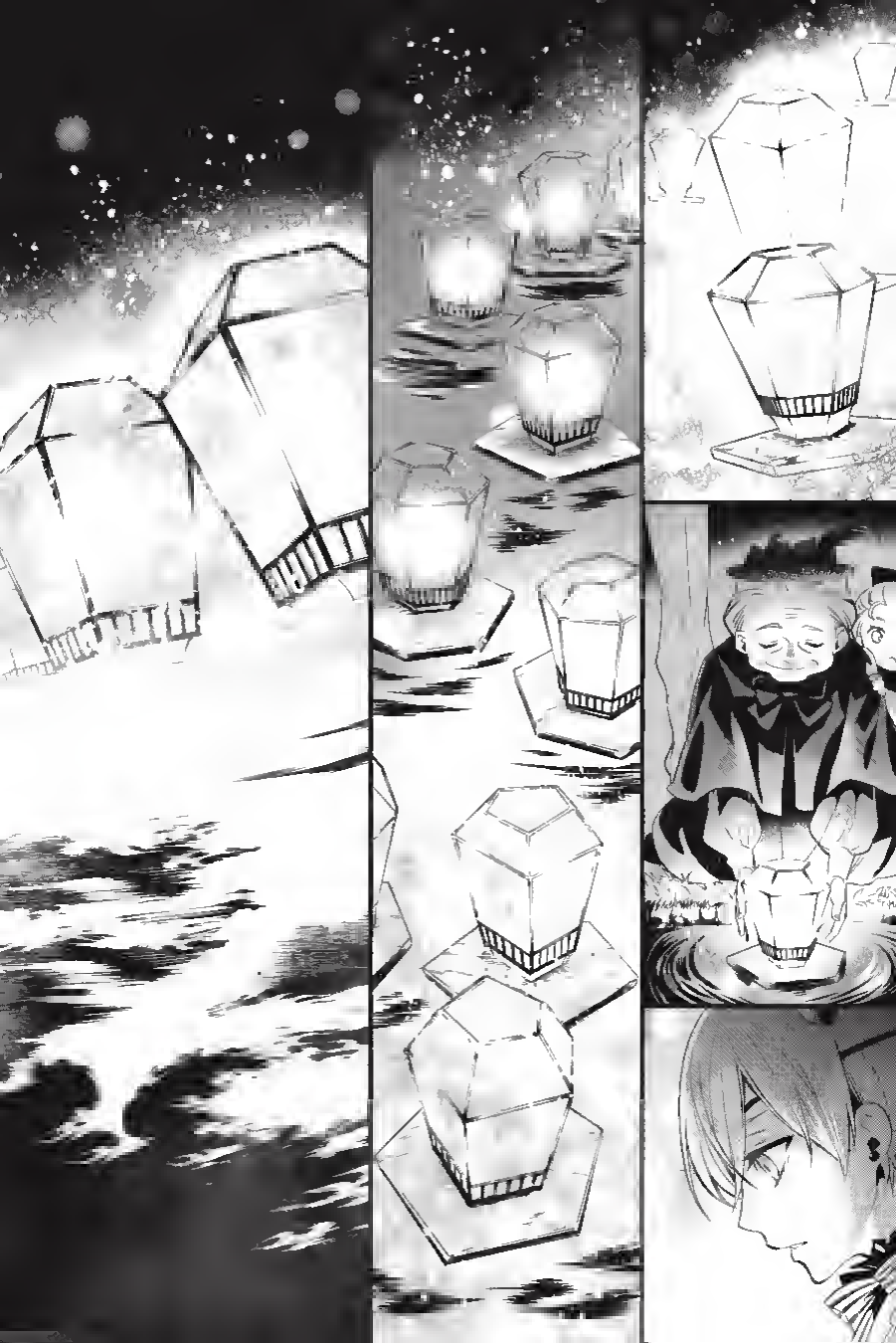
ZAWA (MURMUR)
ザワ
ZAWA
ザワ...

THIS IS THE JAPANESE "LANTERN FESTIVAL," IN WHICH THE SOULS OF THE DECEASED ARE SENT BACK TO THE LAND OF THE DEAD.
WHAT DO I DO WITH THIS?

COME, YOUNG MASTER.
PLEASE LIGHT EVERYONE'S LANTERNS.

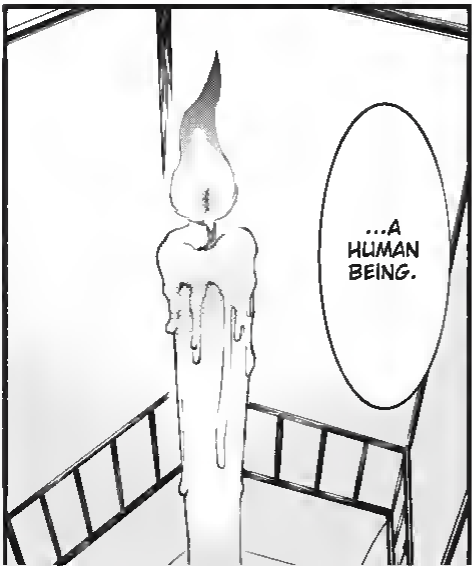
WE PRAY THAT THESE LIGHTS WILL LEAD THOSE SOULS BACK TO THE OTHER SIDE AND PREVENT THEM FROM GOING ASTRAY.
I BELIEVE THAT THIS SENTIMENT IS SHARED BY ALL, REGARDLESS OF NATION OR FAITH.

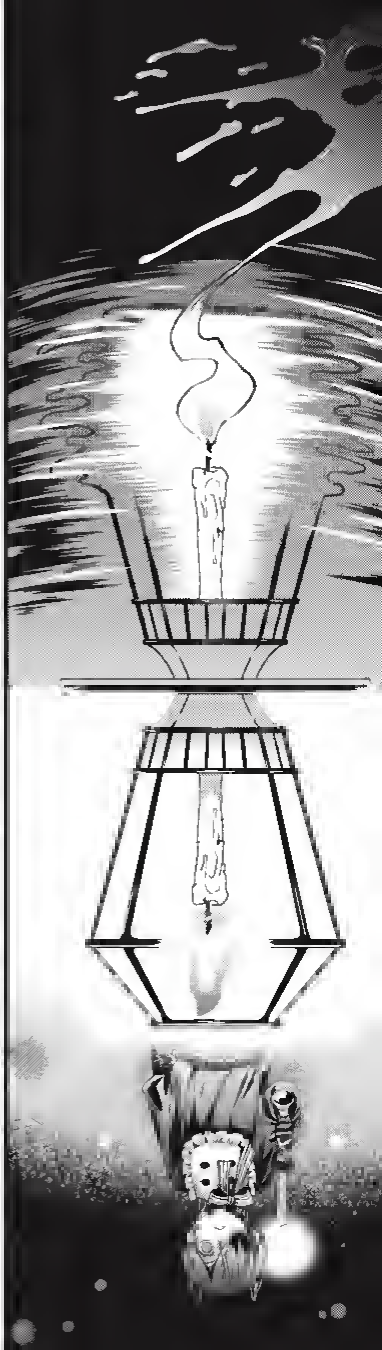

POU
GLOW!



HE (CAST)
THE CANDLE BURNS AWAY TO KEEP ITS FLAME ALIVE—

NOT UNLIKE ...


...A HUMAN BEING.



AN INCONSTANT FLAME THAT FLICKERS DANGEROUSLY IN A GUST OF WIND...
...AND IS EXTINGUISHED ALL TOO SOON.
BUT...
...THAT IS WHAT MAKES THEM...

...ALL THE MORE BEAUTIFUL.

...CAN BECOME A RAGING BLAZE WHEN FANNED BY THE WIND.
ANY FLAME, HOWEVER SMALL...
...
HMPH.

YOU SHOULD HANDLE THEM WITH THE UTMOST CAUTION.
OF COURSE, YOUNG MASTER
AFTER ALL, I AM...
I SHALL STRIVE TO KEEP YOUR TINY FLAME ALIVE.
IT IS MY DUTY TO LIGHT YOUR WAY AS YOU WALK INTO THE DARKNESS.

To be continued in **Black Butler** 25

Black Butler
黒執事

Downstairs

Wakana Haduki

7

Tsuki Sorano

Chiaki Nagaoka

Zen

Sanihiko

*

Takeshi Kuma

*

Yana Toboso

Adviser

Rico Murakami

Special thanks to You!

TO CURB THE RISING ZEAL SURROUNDING THE "BLUE ORDER," CIEL, THE GAME WHIZ, BEGINS A DIRECT ATTACK!!

THE PHANTOM FIVE TAKE THE STAGE!

THE CONCLUSION!!
Black Butler
25
On sale January 2018!
What is Ciel's true aim—!?

Black Butler

Yana Toboso

Author's note

Serialised Chapter 120 (the last chapter in this volume) marks exactly ten years since I began drawing ***Black Butler***. I never imagined I'd be drawing this series for such a long time. I also never imagined I'd still find it difficult drawing Sebastian. But I've grown fond of him over our decade together, so I'd like to grapple with him and his hair's center part for a while longer. And so, here's Volume 24!

The Phantomhive family
has a butler who's almost
too good to be true...
or maybe he's just too
good to be human.
And now you can find
him in two places at once!

Read the latest chapter of

Black Butler

on the same day as Japan!

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Black Dealer
XXIV

A casino royale story that revolves around a gambler rumoured to drive targeted establishments out of business by running away with the winnings. Now the card shark has in his sights the casino that dealer Violet and staff are trying to protect, and he begins his assault using the dirty tricks he has up his sleeve (or not).

...or something.

BLACK BUTLER 24

YANA TOBOSO

Translation: Tomo Kimura
Lettering: Bianca Pistillo

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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First Yen Press Edition: October 2017
The chapters in this volume were originally published as ebooks by Yen Press.

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Library of Congress Control Number: 2010S25S67

ISBNs: 978-0-316-S1120-9 (paperback)
978-0-316-S1124-7 (ebook)

10 9 8 7 6 S 4 3 2 1

BVG

Printed in the United States of America